

AFM falters on peace worries

AMMAN (R) — Amman stock prices continued to stumble on Sunday as worries over Middle East peace after Gaza's bloody clashes soured market sentiment, brokers said. The general price index of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) closed at 147.62 points, down a further 0.13 per cent from 147.82 at Saturday's close. "Political matters play a decisive role in our market sentiment, there is no economic decision, only a political one that affects everything... investors are afraid to take new moves until matters calm," Mohammad Jamjoum, general manager of the Jordan-Gulf Bank, told Reuters. He said unrest in the Gaza Strip and West Bank made investors hesitant to make new steps. Middle East turmoil has rekindled fears amongst the business community of a derailing of the peace process, he added. The market is traditionally very sensitive to political developments relating to Middle East peace making, but Mr. Jamjoum forecast a market pick-up at the end of 1994, when banks are expected to enter in strength.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Arafat wants polls regardless of Israel

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, angered at the slow pace of talks with Israel, said he may call for Palestinian elections without waiting for Israeli approval. "The Palestinian authority will resort to conducting the election from one side if Israel continues to stall and not respond to the Palestinian proposals," he told the Al-Ahram daily. The interview was in Monday editions that went on sale late Sunday. Talks with Israel on elections for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank have been suspended by Israel. They were to have resumed in Cairo on Monday, but have been put off until at least Nov. 29. The Palestinians want to elect a 100-member legislative body that would appoint a cabinet, while Israel has insisted on a single, smaller governing council. It was unclear how Mr. Arafat would proceed with elections, although he suggested he would seek outside help. Mr. Arafat told Al-Ahram that he appointed Palestinian authority he heads "will inform the sponsors of the (peace) agreement" along with Norway and Egypt, who have been mediators in the peace process.

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Jordan, Israel to start marking border

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Jordan decided on Sunday to start demarcating their border, after the first meeting of a committee in charge of implementing the Oct. 26 peace treaty, the foreign ministry said.

The ministry said that teams from both countries were to start marking the 400-kilometre border from next week, in an operation expected to last six months. Jordan recovered 380 square kilometres of territory under the treaty.

The committee, which met in the Bet Shean valley of northern Israel, was headed by Eliakim Rubinstein for Israel and Hani Mulki, secretary-general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Postal links

Jordan and Israel also agreed on Sunday to speed up measures to start postal links in line with the peace treaty.

"Both will take necessary routine measures to have postal links operational as soon as possible," said a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters. He gave no firm date but said links could start before December.

Sunday's meeting discussed three major items, according to Dr. Mulki. These included the committee's programme of action and its future activities, the 24 agreements covered by the treaty and outcome of the borders and transport committees' meetings held last week.

The committee also reviewed the various activities planned for next week's meetings of the various committees, including the border committee, Dr. Mulki said in a statement to Jordan Television.

He added that implementation of the various agreements will take a period ranging between three months and nine months.

Dr. Mulki voiced hope that the actual delineation of border points will start next week.

Diplomatic ties

The committee that met Sunday was set up on Thursday when an Israeli delegation visited Amman and held talks.

During those meetings, it was decided that the two countries will announce the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 27. Embassies would be opened on Dec. 10.

The Israeli delegation was led by Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, and included senior advisors and officials from the foreign and finance ministries.

The two sides discussed the various aspects of economic cooperation as called for in the peace treaty, which sets a May 1995 deadline for reaching agreements. These include a free trade zone, investment, banking, industrial cooperation and labour. Most of the projects were discussed at the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic summit held in Casablanca, Morocco.

The two sides have given priority to implementing projects that are vital to the very essence of the peace treaty, including facilities to make available to Jordan its share of Yarmouk River waters as agreed in the accord.

Jordan made its first exports to Israel when it sent a five-tonne "test" shipment of tomatoes across the Jordan River Bridge. Officials also said Sunday the first group of Jordanian tourists will go to Israel on Monday (see stories on page 12).



Palestinian security agents patrol the streets of Gaza City (AFP photo)

Arafat urges national unity; Hamas wants him removed

Combined agency dispatches

YASSER ARAFAT appealed for Palestinian unity on Sunday in his first public appearance since the Gaza carnage.

Muslim militants, however, urged Mr. Arafat's removal as chairman of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"Despite all that happened, we call for national unity," Mr. Arafat said in a brief speech to 500 supporters outside his Gaza City headquarters.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader renewed charges that Islamic fundamentalists who fought running battles with Palestinian police on Friday were receiving instructions from foreign forces.

"We will not allow any power that receives orders from abroad to kill the Palestinian dream," he said, calling on veteran PLO fighters to be "guards" of that dream.

The PNA began the process of reconciliation on Sunday by releasing 31 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, arrested

on Friday. It said that life in Gaza had returned to normal and thanked Palestinians for resisting "attempts by the envious and bitter who tried to instigate strife."

Fourteen Palestinian civilians and one policeman died in the Gaza City clashes as police fired at stone-throwers outside the main mosque. Three more Arabs died Saturday when Israeli troops opened fire on anti-Arafat protesters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An Israeli soldier was shot dead by Hamas militants in the Strip the same day.

Hamas warned Sunday that Mr. Arafat would have to be removed and elections held for a new temporary Palestinian leadership. The group's spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said that the movement "refuses categorically that Arafat continues imposing his authority."

"His staying as head of the Palestinian authority would perpetuate the crisis," Mr. Ghosheh said.

In Damascus, Hamas said

Israel may advance funds to PNA, speed up talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet on Sunday debated advancing money to Yasser Arafat's embattled self-rule government and speeding up negotiations on expanding autonomy in the wake of inter-Palestinian violence in the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would urge international donors to release some promised funds to the Palestinians and proposed that Israel advance a sum of over \$15 million to the self-rule authority.

Mr. Peres said growing economic hardship in the Gaza Strip created a disillusionment with the peace accord that in part led to Friday's rioting and bloodshed in which 15 Palestinians were killed and more than 200 wounded.

The \$2.2 billion pledged to the self-rule government has been slow in coming as donors waited for the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to establish a detailed accounting system.

"The cabinet decided today to make many efforts to improve the economic situation. Arafat is in the middle of a struggle and we want him to succeed. But without support from the Palestinian street, the entire agreement is shaky," said Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

"The minute the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) started a real struggle against Hamas as he has, perhaps involuntarily, Israel cannot remain indifferent and look on like a traffic cop," he added.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, however, expressed reservations about Israel footing too many of PNA bills and said the government would only decide on financial help for the PNA after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned from a U.S. visit later in the week.

Mr. Peres stressed Israel would not intervene militarily or reenter the Gaza Strip if

U.S. may give Jordan billions in military aid

The following article is reprinted unedited from the Nov. 7-13 issue of the Washington-based Defense News. The article, which appeared under the same headline, was written jointly by two of the newspaper's staff writers, Philip Finnegan and Barbara Opall.

WASHINGTON — U.S. government officials have begun crafting an aid package to make good on President Bill Clinton's pledge to assist Jordan's financially strapped military.

Options have been drafted in the Department of Defense that would provide for a long-term military aid package ranging from \$250 million to \$2.5 billion, according to Department of Defense, Department of State and defense industry sources.

King Hussein has requested billions of dollars of equipment, including 36 to 72 F-16 fighters, more than 200 M1A2 main battle tanks and large amounts of support equipment.

Options are being crafted that would provide an important show of support for Jordan after the peace agreement signed between Jordan and Israel, but would stop short of meeting Hussein's full military shopping list.

"We will work with Jordan to meet your legitimate defense requirements and to give you the security you deserve," Clinton told a joint session of the Jordanian parliament on Oct. 26.

Although Clinton's pledge

lacked specifics, U.S. government sources said the White House has directed a coordinated effort to craft a so-called peace package that can meet the approval of Congress and also fit within budgetary constraints. Clinton and the National Security Council will make the final decisions on the options now being drafted.

"We're working on details to fulfill the president's pledge. But so far, the work is only preliminary because we haven't been given a final set of numbers," a U.S. official said.

Options under review by White House officials include requesting a special supplemental bill for the 1995 budget to cover up to \$1 billion in military aid to Jordan or waiting until 1996 to incorporate the Jordanian programme into the 1996 foreign aid budget.

Jordan's need for military assistance is critical. Its 98,000-man military faces serious problems with aging equipment and a lack of spare parts since its failure to support the Persian Gulf war effort to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The principle of helping

the Jordanians modernize their armed forces is important," Robert Saffoff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Nov. 4. "The Jordanians clearly have internal and external challenges. It is important to be sure they can meet them."

With Jordan firmly supporting the peace process, it faces possible challenges from Syria, Iraq and from Palestinians, he said.

Options now being examined to help the Jordanian armed forces include the possible transfer of 24 used F-16A/B fighters although high costs are a potential obstacle. As a new system it would require a considerable amount of new training, group support equipment and airfield construction.

The F-16s also might require upgrades to improve their safety. Moreover, the operating costs for an F-16 squadron can be very high, particularly for financially strapped Jordan.

An option under review is to provide Jordan with up to \$190 million to upgrade the older fighters along with \$25 million to \$40 million annually to maintain and operate the new F-16 fleet.

F-16 upgrades are estimated to cost at least \$7 million per plane. The up-

Majali: Jordan-Kuwait relations are improving

Prime minister delivers King's message to Qatari emir, reviews peace process

DOHA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani on bilateral relations.

At a press conference following his audience with Sheikh Khalifa, Dr. Majali said he briefed the Qatari leader on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and discussed with him issues of common interest, including scopes of cooperation in various fields.

Dr. Majali said there were positive and constructive signs about the restoration of normal relations with Kuwait, and referred to the recent exchange of visits by officials from both countries.

Dr. Majali voiced hope that Jordan-Kuwait relations would be restored to normal soon.

Dr. Majali stressed the importance of Arab solidarity, particularly at this time when a new world order is emerging.

He called on Arabs to leave their disputes aside and reschedule their differences, similar to debt rescheduling, if they want to have a say in the new world order and if they do not want such an order to be imposed on them.

He also called for restructuring the Arab League through setting up regional groups that would in turn form the body of the league, saying this would solve a lot of problems.

Dr. Majali said Jordan was punished because of its calls for Arab unity affirmed that the day the Arab Nation will unify its ranks is inevitably coming "because pan-Arab sentiments are now stronger than before."

The prime minister said Arab countries participated in the Madrid conference which launched the Middle East peace process in 1991 by their free will, while Israel was the party that was forced to participate in it. However, he stressed that all parties in the Arab-Israeli peace nego-

tiations will end up winners. "We will win, the other party will win. The profits will be material and moral, immediate or mediate; our job was to show the other party its real gains so as to reap ours," said Dr. Majali.

He said Israel's gains were limited to its recognition of its existence in the region. These gains are moral, while the gains of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine are material, represented in regaining their lands and water, and refugees' rights, he said.

He stressed that Jordan was seeking to address the Middle East problem in a scientific way rather than in an emotional way.

He voiced regret over the recent incidents in Gaza and called for having democracy and peaceful dialogue as the basis for competition between the Palestinians rather than fighting.

Jordan and Israel, he said, will declare the establishment

(Continued on page 7)

Full liberalisation of economy vital for investment — analysts

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has to totally liberalise its economy if the Kingdom wants to instil investor confidence and a share of the international investment expected to come to the Middle East as Arabs and Israelis make peace, international analysts said Sunday.

Angus Blair and John Shakeshaft of the London-based Baring Securities, a 230-year-old merchant bank and investment house, also suggested that the Jordanian government adopt a more determined effort to create the right investment climate by setting a timeframe that would ease bureaucracy and put an end to inefficiency.

Without such determination, targets would be missed and Jordan would be left behind in the mounting competition for international capital, Mr. Blair and Mr. Shakeshaft told a gathering of Jordan's economic experts and policy advisors.

At the outset of the meeting, attended by Ziad Fariz and Ahmad Mango, two advisors of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Finance Minister Sami Gammo briefly reviewed Jordan's economic performance since 1989 when it adopted a

fiscal restructuring programme and how the Kingdom had exceeded some of the goals set in the programme.

Mr. Gammo also said Jordan was firmly committed to reforms aimed at realising a free market economy and liberalisation as well as privatisation of public entities.

Mr. Blair, who has co-authored a detailed study on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and rated it as one of the best organised among emerging markets in the region, conceded that Jordan had gone a long way in creating the right ingredients that attract foreign investment.

Statistics, derived from International Monetary Fund (IMF) figures and quoted by Mr. Blair, showed Jordan's annual economic growth rate of nearly six per cent in 1993 was well above the 4.7 per cent average for the Middle East.

However, figures of the international trend in investments over the years indicated that the Kingdom had yet to reach a point where it could describe conditions here as conducive to attracting foreign capital of any significance, he said.

Among the factors negatively affecting foreign investment in Jordan was the

"psychological barriers" resulting from the regulatory and administrative environments, unclear commitment to liberalisation, the faster pace of other markets, few investible, increasing international competition for capital, the presence of only a few developed industries and "market" rumours, Mr. Blair said.

"If Jordan wants a part of the international capital flow, then it has to remove the psychological barriers that are still in place," he said.

The analyst said despite the moves that Jordan undertook to project itself as a target for international investment there remained "unclear commitment to liberalisation and mixed signals."

International capital tends to flow to markets where "there are no sacred cows" when it comes to privatisation, foreigners do not need permission to trade in the stock market, local issues on the bourse are always over-subscribed, barrier-free trade policies are followed and respect of intellectual copyright is ensured, he said.

There is no specific formula to attract foreign capital except to meet these criteria and liberalise the economy

and ease the regulatory environment, said Mr. Shakeshaft.

The experience of other countries has proved that offering high incentives and encouragement such as tax holiday and exemptions is only part of the measures necessary to attract foreign capital, both analysts said.

One of the prerequisites was allowing foreign capital to enter the stock market without any restrictions on its movement or any limits on its involvement in equity, said Mr. Blair. Such an approach to "indirect investments" would automatically lead to direct investments, he said.

Mr. Blair said Morocco, which attracted the bulk of foreign capital that went to the Middle East and North Africa region in 1993, was a positive example. The country had a relatively attractive package of incentives for direct investments for several years, but it failed to realise any significant flow of foreign capital. But in 1992, when King Hassan II took a personal interest and lifted all regulations on foreign investment in the stock market, international interest was kindled.

(Continued on page 7)

Lower House of Parliament urges Palestinian not to use violence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday issued a statement appealing to the Palestinians to abstain from infighting and prevent bloodshed.

The statement, issued at the end of a regular session of the House, also called on the Palestinians to resort to dialogue to resolve disputes.

At the outset of the session, many deputies took the floor calling for such a statement to be issued following Friday's inter-Palestinian violence in the Gaza Strip.

Speaking at the session, attended by Acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi and cabinet members, the deputies expressed regret over the bloody incidents and urged the Palestinians to direct their efforts towards reconstructing their country and to contain the crisis.

In its regular business of the day, the House listened to a reply by Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf

to a query by Deputy Bader Al Riyati about the fate of the Jordan Glass Industries Company.

The minister said that the company's plant near Maan suspended its operations last December pending maintenance of its kiln which was malfunctioning.

She said that the government had decided to take measures to revive the plant's operations and maintenance of the kiln, replacement of old equipment and installation of new production lines.

She said studies would be conducted on marketing the production and JD 100,000 had been allocated for the study and a special committee had been formed to supervise it.

The company's workers will continue to receive their monthly pay despite the suspension of work, Dr. Khalaf told the House.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat re-

sponded to a question by Deputy Hamed Abu Jamus concerning the water distribution programmes in the eastern districts of Amman.

The minister said studies and plans had been prepared and a tender would soon be announced for the installation of a new water network for the eastern districts. He said that the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) was keen on ensuring continued service to all population settlements and districts.

In reply to a query by Deputy Bassam Haddadin about the work of the administrative audit and inspection bureau, the House listened to a statement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali read out on his behalf.

The statement gave details about violations of rules and regulations by government departments discovered and rectified by the bureau.

(Continued on page 12)

كندا من الأصل

Arafat urges unity

(Continued from page 1)

It would seek revenge for the bloodshed against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, its "true enemy," who ordered the crackdown on Islamic militants.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have also vowed to redirect their anger at Israeli soldiers and settlers.

Taking the threats seriously, Mr. Rabin ordered extra troops rushed to the Gaza Strip to protect Jewish settlements and to the West Bank to prevent violence.

There were angry statements by leaders of both the PLO and Islamic fundamentalists of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. But only isolated outbreaks of violence occurred as a shaky truce held on the ground.

Nabil Shaath, the PLO's top peace negotiator, said Friday's rioting was the outgrowth of anger over Mr. Rabin's banning of Palestinians from jobs in Israel and the international donors failure to make good on aid pledges.

"This Palestinian land has been under siege and collective punishments by the Israelis for weeks, preventing our workers from attending their jobs, preventing our products from being ex-



Israeli soldiers guard arrested Palestinians after heavy clashes erupted in East Jerusalem Saturday

ported, preventing our fishermen from going to sea, and this has resulted in a catastrophe," he told reporters.

"The donors have given us nothing but a trickle."

Israel imposed the closure on Gaza after a wave of suicide bombings and other attacks by Islamic militants that claimed 30 Israeli lives in the past two months. Mr. Rabin has warned that Palestinian elections and the expansion of autonomy would depend on whether

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Algiers slams Rome meeting on Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian government Sunday roundly criticised an unprecedented conference in Rome next week which aims to get some 30 Algerian opposition leaders to sit down and talk to senior fundamentalists.

Organised by Italy's Sant'Egidio community, a lay group created to help mediate in Third World conflicts, the two-day meeting starting Monday comes amid an upsurge in clashes that have been pitting Muslim militants against Algeria's secular military-backed authorities for nearly three years.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry said Saturday that Algeria's ambassador in Rome had told Sant'Egidio that the conference was "inopportune and ambiguous."

"A solution to Algeria's internal problems can only be found in Algeria by Algerians," the ministry statement said.

"Discussions on this problem cannot be transferred elsewhere. The Algerian government has never asked for foreign mediation, and neither does it tolerate any interference in its internal affairs."

Sant'Egidio has set modest ambitions for the talks. Community spokesman Mario Marazziti said they were designed to establish preliminary contact between the two sides with a view to the still "remote prospect" of "real negotiations."

Algerian authorities have not acknowledged their invitation, while leaders of the

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in exile appeared divided over its value.

The outlawed FIS has been spearheading a guerrilla campaign against the government since the army stepped in to cancel January 1992 second-round elections that the Front was poised to win.

More than 10,000 people have died in the ensuing violence.

Last month the government held talks with political parties and urged the FIS to join in.

There were separate contacts between the government and FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who are under house arrest in Algeria, but President Liamine Zeroual declared the talks a failure and accused them of continuing to incite violence.

Sant'Egidio said FIS leaders-in-exile Anwar Haddam and Rabah Kebir were scheduled to attend the Rome talks, and that people close to the government would also take part.

But in Paris Saturday another FIS leader-in-exile, Sheikh Abdul Baki Sahraoui, said that "no FIS leader has been granted a mandate to represent (the organisation) or speak in its name."

"The meeting does not constitute a framework in which the grave crisis affecting our country should be discussed," he added.

"Although praiseworthy, this initiative does not incorporate in all respects the true protagonists of the Algerian drama," namely repre-



Lamine Zeroual

sentatives of the security forces and the Islamic Salvation Army, the FIS's military wing.

Only bilateral talks between the FIS and the government could open the way to a political solution to the conflict, Mr. Sahraoui stressed.

Sant'Egidio also announced the participation of former President Ahmad Ben Bella, the leaders of the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS), Abdul Hamid Mehri and Hocine Ait Ahmad, and senior figures from Algeria's religious, human rights and higher education communities.

The FLN and FFS both oppose Mr. Zeroual's strategy of armed confrontation with the militants.

They and the FIS were

Algeria's three leading political movements when the electoral process was interrupted.

"What we will tell the FIS is that we do not believe in violence as a means of solving political problems," said Mr. Mehri.

"We have not come here to open a dialogue with Algerian partners or with the government. The central issues must be dealt with in Algeria among Algerians."

Earlier this month, Mr. Zeroual promised presidential elections would be held by the end of next year but also pledged to continue the government programme to "eradicate" Muslim fundamentalists.

According to unofficial figures, the conflict has claimed the lives of 195 armed fundamentalists since the start of November while, in a statement issued in Bonn, the FIS accused security forces of killing a thousand people between November 1 and 9.

Facing outrage by the military-backed regime, Algeria's Catholic hierarchy distanced itself from the talks in Rome.

Cardinal Etienne Duval of Algiers stated in a communiqué that the Sant'Egidio religious community's actions did not implicate Roman Catholic officials.

The FIS accused the Algerian security forces on Wednesday of torturing and killing more than 1,000 people and dumping the bodies on the streets in the first nine days of this month.

Alarm bells ring for Arafat

By Magida El Batsch
Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has been left dangerously exposed by Friday's bloodshed in Gaza, facing a threat from Islamic militants, economic disaster and pressure from Israel alike.

Two thousand fundamentalists marched through the streets of Gaza on Saturday chanting: "Arafat, take your ministers and go."

They ripped posters of Mr. Arafat from walls in the demonstration called by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

In contrast, a far smaller crowd turned up outside Mr. Arafat's Gaza headquarters in response to a call by his Fateh faction to demonstrate their loyalty to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Since he arrived in the autonomous Strip in July, Mr. Arafat has failed to make

much headway in the three challenges facing his authority.

There has been no arrangement so far between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Islamic fundamentalist groups. International aid has arrived at a trickle, while negotiations with Israel on extending autonomy have been delayed.

The tension which erupted into violence Friday, leaving 15 Palestinians dead and 200 wounded in clashes between Hamas supporters and the police, has been rising for weeks.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which both oppose Palestinian self-rule, are benefiting from the people's increasing disillusionment and frustration.

Six months after the launch of self-rule, the hoped-for economic revival has failed to materialise. Israeli settlements and soldiers are still in Gaza, and Palestinians find it more and more difficult to travel into Israel for work.

"Three-quarters of the population live below the poverty line in the Gaza Strip," said Hazem Sarraj, of the Islamic Aid Committee.

In the city, the walls tell the people's story.

They were repainted in white to wipe out anti-Israel slogans when the PLO chief arrived. Now they are covered in anti-Arafat slogans.

"Go back to where you came from," is written on one wall. "Revenge, we will not forgive you," and "Arafat, you are an American agent," can be read, on others.

The mood is equally aggressive on Fateh's side. "If the Islamists want to push things to the limit, so will we," said Toufiq Abu Khussa, a Fateh official. "We have had enough of double-dealers."

Meanwhile, Islamic attacks on Israeli targets in the self-rule areas are meeting with widespread support from Palestinians.

Hamas, the only group

capable of competing with the Palestinian National Authority, is now looking to win back the power it wielded in Palestinian society under the Israeli military occupation.

The group wants to tap into power at the level of municipal authorities, though it will not discuss taking part in the administration of self-rule as Mr. Arafat has proposed.

The United States, in a line also taken Egypt, said the Gaza battles signalled the urgent need to release the funds pledged to Palestinian self-rule.

Until now the international community has handed over only \$100 million, despite pledging several billion dollars to help establish self-rule after Israel and the PLO signed the declaration of principles on autonomy in 1993.

Nabil Shaath, minister for international cooperation, said the PLO received 10 times more aid before it made peace with Israel.

Sudan, Libya aim to revive merger pact

CAIRO (R) — Sudan and Libya, neighbours both facing international isolation, aim to revive a largely unimplemented four-year-old integration pact, a leading Sudanese Islamist was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The Saudi-owned Al Hayat newspaper reported that Hassan Al Tourabi, who met Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi last week in the Libyan city of Tobruk, said that the talks "strengthened my relations with Qadhafi after a long break."

"We hope to implement the apparatus for integration and (hope) that the two countries can benefit from their shared border to ease the embargo imposed on them both."

The United Nations has imposed a ban on all flights to or from Libya, as well as limited sanctions which prevent it from buying some oil industry equipment.

Sudan suffered a sharp cut in foreign aid.

Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir, who seized power in 1989, signed a pact with Colonel Qadhafi a year later envisaging a complete merger of their neighbouring countries by 1994. Aside from trade cooperation under which Libya supplied Sudan with oil, little other progress was made.

Dr. Tourabi, secretary-general of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Movement, said he discussed "problems of Islamic movements in Libya and North Africa" with the Libyan leader.

Al Hayat said General Bashir, Col. Qadhafi and Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh were expected to hold a summit meeting in Khartoum next month during celebrations for Sudan's 39 independence anniversary.

Helms opposes U.S. presence in Golan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Conservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms, slated to take over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Saturday he was opposed to sending U.S. military observers to support a Middle East peace.

"This whole peace process over there is a fraud, and you'd better look carefully at what's going on," Mr. Helms told CNN Television.

"Syria doesn't want peace. They want the Golan Heights. They want access to the pocketbooks of the American taxpayers," added the senator from North Carolina.

Mr. Helms said he would vote against any administration effort to deploy U.S. troops as part of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Helms is likely the new chairman of the influential committee when the Senate convenes in January. Recent elections swept the Democrats from control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Republicans will now have broad powers to determine U.S. policy at home and abroad, even though President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, still controls the White House.

Mr. Helms said he is also "totally opposed" to any plans to send U.S. aid to Bosnia to train an army there.

"Sooner or later we're going to get down to common sense and realise that we can't solve disputes with money and the blood of our people by interfering with things that have been going on for thousands of years," he said.

Mr. Helms has come out in favour of reducing U.S. foreign aid overall and possibly eliminating the U.S. Agency for International Develop-

Students in Iran protest Gaza clash

TEHRAN (R) — Angry students shouting "Down with Israel" protested outside the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Tehran on Sunday against the killing on Friday of 15 Gazans by Palestinian police, the Iran news agency IRNA said.

It said the hundreds of demonstrators also shouted "Arafat, a tool in the hands of Zionists" during the protest, referring to Yasser Arafat.

In a statement they called for the closure of the mission and police arrested some students after they broke into the building, the agency said.

"They said Arafat's hands were stained with the blood of Gaza worshippers and that his colleagues should no longer be allowed to continue their activities here," it said.

Leading Iranian hardliner Ali Akbar Mohtashami, in an interview published on Sunday, called on Muslims to avenge the killing by targeting U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli leaders.

Protest in Syria

Several thousand Palestinian refugees staged a protest in Damascus Sunday against Mr. Arafat for the bloodshed in Gaza City, a Palestinian group said.

Demonstrators at the Yarmouk camp on the southern outskirts of Damascus chanted anti-Arafat slogans, said an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"They accused Mr. Arafat of 'carrying out Israeli orders leading to a Palestinian civil war,'" and demanded that those responsible for the violence be brought to trial, he said.

The official said all the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria staged a protest strike on Sunday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pion Tous
18:00 Les Invention De La Vie
18:30 Le Vent Des Moissons
19:00 New In French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 Black Beauty
20:00 Boopies Circus
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Shades Of L.A.
22:00 News In English
22:20 Headliners

PRAYER TIMES

04:44 Fajr
06:04 (Sunrise) Duhr
11:21 Dhuhr
14:14 'Asr
16:29 Maghrib
17:59 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetheth, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625843

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Lutheran-Sabine Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A depression will affect the Kingdom early today. Temperatures are expected to drop, winds will build up and rainfall is predicted over the whole country. Winds will become westerly. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly and sea sought.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8 / 15
Aqaba 14 / 23
Deserts 7 / 18
Jordan Valley 14 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 20, Aqaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Maraga 776249
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 894286
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shamsiadi pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Mohammad Hillu 279773
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food 637111
Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 637101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630231
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 787111
Repairs 630231
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Adikhi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 630140
Palestine, Shamsiadi 664171/4
Shamsiadi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845865
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Mushajra 777012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Anat Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983323
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)986732
ADMA:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100
ADMA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:20 Beirut (RJ)
08:20 Jeddah (RJ)
09:20 Damascus (RJ)
09:20 Riyadh (RJ)
09:20 Aqaba (RJ)
09:40 New Delhi (RJ)
09:55 Beirut (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
11:25 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Huddaidh (YV)
14:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Kiev (RZ)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
17:20 Paris (AF)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:00 Frankfurt (LH)
12:30 London (BA)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Dhahran (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:25 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Cairo (GF)
13:30 Beirut (RJ)
15:00 Beirut (RJ)
15:30 Khartoum (SD)
15:30 Kiev (RZ)
19:10 Dubai (EK)
02:20 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700 / 50
Banana 300 / 200
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 130 / 80
Carrot 350 / 250
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Clementine 320 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 400 / 300
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 400 / 300
Garlic 600 / 400
Grape Fruit 200 / 200
Lemon 300 / 200
Marrow (large) 400 / 250
Marrow (small) 650 / 450
Onion (green) 430 / 240
Onion (dry) 320 / 220
Orange 350 / 150
Pepper (hot) 350 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200
Potato 300 / 220
Spinach 300 / 200
Tomato 600 / 400

House judiciary committee debates temporary JPA law

Association seeks to eliminate loopholes

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A temporary law enacted by the government in 1983 governing the Jordan Press Association (JPA) was handed to the Judiciary Committee of the Lower House of Parliament for debate Sunday.

The law, as issued in 1983, established regulations governing the journalists' union, but is ambiguous in its wording and is no longer congruent with Jordan's recent political and economic developments, said Suleiman Qudrah, JPA president and editor-in-chief of Al Rai daily newspaper.

The JPA intends to submit several proposals later this week that it hopes will be incorporated into the law, eliminating the numerous loopholes that confuse its interpretation and implementation, said Mr. Qudrah.

"Our proposals to (the committee) include an amendment of the law regarding membership, financial resources and representation on the JPA board," Mr. Qudrah said.

Under current JPA law, minimum eligibility requirements for JPA membership have been difficult for a substantial number of journalists to meet. The law states that a journalist must have at least a secondary education and must have at least three years training at a JPA-recognised newspaper to be



Suleiman Qudrah a member.

However, said Mr. Qudrah, "As we know, this is not the case with some journalists who had been working long before this law was enacted. Or what were we to do with journalists who had been working abroad for years or received training somewhere else? The law says they must have this training — but they are professionals already. The law should be more flexible for us to deal with these problems."

New laws such as the 1993 Press and Publications Law and the Political Parties Law should also be factors influencing the JPA law, which currently prohibits membership of journalists affiliated with political party papers.

The committee last week made its first reading of the existing JPA law and was briefed by the director of Press and Publications, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information and concerned JPA offi-

cials, according to committee member, Islamic Action Front Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Kilani.

One of the most contentious issues in the JPA law — representation on the JPA council — will also be addressed in the list of proposals.

The nine-member council today consists of three journalists, three newspaper owners and three Jordan News Agency, Petra, staff. The JPA is proposing that council members be elected directly from the JPA general assembly without regard to their positions in the profession.

Mr. Kilani said that although the committee deferred debate of the proposed law until next week, it did however debate the composition of the JPA.

He said that the inclusion of Petra staff in the association contradicts a recent ruling by the High Commission on Constitutional Law establishing that teachers, as civil servants, cannot unionise.

Mr. Qudrah expects that the JPA will present their amendment proposals to the committee within the next two weeks and expressed his confidence that the Judiciary Committee would support most if not all proposed amendments.

"This committee is very liberal, much more than the last committee," he said. "They are very understanding of our problems."

King confers medal on Qatari minister

Jordan, Qatar sign information cooperation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday conferred on visiting Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Abdul Aziz Kuwari the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order in recognition of his distinguished efforts to promote Qatari-Jordanian cooperation in the fields of information and culture.

The medal was presented to Dr. Kuwari by Information Minister Jawad Al Anani following a ceremony for the signing of an executive programme to implement a Jordanian-Qatari agreement on information cooperation.

Dr. Anani later presented Royal medals to the other members of the visiting Qatari delegation accompanying Dr. Kuwari.

The Qatari minister voiced his appreciation for the Royal honour, emphasising the strong ties between the two countries.

Dr. Anani and Dr. Kuwari had earlier signed the executive programme at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation head office in the presence of the Qatari delegation and senior information ministry officials.

Under the terms of the programme the two sides agreed to the following:

1- In radio and television, they agree to exchange documentary and news materials, visits by concerned offi-

cials and folklore songs. They also agree to cooperate in training cadres in information, and in this respect, Jordan expressed readiness to offer expertise to Qatar, including organising training courses in television and radio-related fields. The two sides agree to cooperate in covering important sports events held in either country and will encourage joint radio and television productions and launch cooperation between the Jordanian and Qatari satellite channels.

2- In matters concerning the national news agencies of Qatar and Jordan, the two sides agreed to promote cooperation in implementation of an agreement signed last June. They agree on exchanging publications and informational pamphlets, issued by either side, participating in book exhibitions organised in Qatar or Jordan, exchanging copies of laws and legislation issued in either country dealing with the copyrights on artistic, literary and cultural works, and in facilitating the mission of journalist delegations visiting from either side.

According to Dr. Kuwari, his visit to Jordan achieved its objectives.

For his part, Dr. Anani said the agreement has brought new life to its old predecessor and it is hoped that the two sides would utilise the executive programme in the best in-



Information Minister Jawad Al Anani and his Qatari counterpart Hamad Abdul Aziz Kuwari on Sunday sign a cooperation accord (Petra photo)

terest of the two countries which could embark on joint television and radio productions.

Dr. Kuwari extended an invitation to Dr. Anani to visit Qatar.

Earlier Sunday, Dr. Kuwari had said his country was interested in deepening cultural ties with Jordan and was prepared to revive a 1972 agreement with the Kingdom that expired in 1985.

At a meeting with Minister of Culture Juma'a Hammad and senior ministry officials, the two sides examined a set of Jordanian proposals to enhance cooperation in cultural

arenas. The proposals included the exchange of books and other publications, visits by writers and lecturers, visits by folklore troupes and the organisation of festivals in each other's countries to introduce citizens to the art and culture of the other.

Other aspects of the proposals concern holding art exhibitions, exchanging visits by officials to national archives and documentation centres, and participating in conferences and seminars on culture in each other's countries.

Mr. Hammad and Dr.

Kuwari each said that their countries sought to upgrade the level of cultural exchanges between them and enhance brotherly ties between their peoples.

Mr. Hammad briefed the Qatari minister on the Ministry of Culture's programmes and activities.

After the meeting, the two ministers met with Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Hindawi at his office, where Dr. Kuwari expressed his satisfaction with the progress of cultural and informational relations between Qatar and the Kingdom.

British Council chief reviews cooperation with RSS officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the British Council in Amman David Burton Sunday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and discussed the prospect of joint undertakings with RSS Vice President Said Alloush and several senior officials, according to an RSS spokesperson.

The discussions, said the spokesperson, focused on means to develop scientific and technical cooperation between Jordan and the United Kingdom through close cooperation between RSS and the British Council.

Dr. Alloush briefed the guest on RSS objectives and duties in the society's capacity as a national institution for research and industrial services.

He also noted that RSS activities are concentrated in

three major fields, namely scientific and technological research and development; providing technical consultation and services; and training.

Dr. Alloush welcomed the idea of extending bridges of cooperation with the British Council, according to an RSS statement.

The statement said Dr. Burton expressed his pleasure at visiting the RSS and underlined his council's desire to cement bilateral relations which he added reflect the strong relations that have linked Jordan and the United Kingdom throughout the years.

He also presented a briefing on the structural changes that the British Council endeavours to achieve and referred to the importance of

the principle of shared interests in any of the projects which RSS and the British Council would jointly undertake.

Dr. Burton stressed that one of the British Council's objectives is to reactivate and facilitate contacts with the British institutions that share the same fields of interest.

He also underlined the British government's concern in advancing scientific cooperation in various fields, said the statement.

During the meeting, the directors of RSS centres discussed scientific cooperation between RSS and corresponding British institutions in the fields of environment, renewable energy, computer, testing of foodstuff, as well as accreditation of laboratories.

Ministry to reconsider laws on tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State and Acting Minister of Tourism Abdullah Jazi Sunday said the government was reconsidering all laws and legislation pertaining to the tourism industry with a view to amending them to meet current and future needs of tourism development.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with tour and travel agency representatives in the Kingdom, Dr. Jazi said the ministry's various departments would cooperate fully with these private sector agents to help stimulate the country's tourism industry.

In reviewing obstacles and difficulties currently before tourism programmes, the minister said the government was determined to give the private sector a greater role in the implementation of national tourist programmes which would contribute to strengthening the economy.

Four local firms to conduct JD 16m Salt area water distribution project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has contracted four local firms to install water pumping stations and water towers at 10 different locations in Salt.

According to Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Secretary General Qusay Qteishat, who signed the contracts Sunday, the JD 16 million project will start by mid-December and be completed by mid-1997.

The project, financed through a loan from the European Investment Bank as well as allocations from the WAJ budget, includes the laying of water pipelines in the city and its surroundings, Mr. Qteishat said.

He said the WAJ found it necessary to proceed with this project in an effort to reduce the water pressure on the existing water network resulting from the obstacle of Salt's mountainous terrain.

Mr. Qteishat said the WAJ estimates that nearly 75 per cent of the water distributed

through the existing network is lost because of administrative and technical reasons.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Sunday announced that it would be conducting a regional conference on water conservation in farming, in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the European Union (EU).

The three-day conference, which begins today, will discuss water and irrigation policies in the Arab region, water plans and uses in Jordan, management of water resources, water conservation methods, drip irrigation methods, waste water recycling and other relevant issues, according to a ministry statement.

It said the meeting will be attended by representatives from Jordan, six Arab and seven foreign countries, in addition to concerned international organisations.

The meeting is to convene at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.



Residential area in Salt

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- ★ Film (in French) entitled "Le Juge Et L'Assassin" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Greek to Gothic" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khaleel Khreis) at Darat Al Funn at 5:30 p.m.

NOVEL RECITAL

- ★ Novel recital by Najmeh Hikmat at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Maher Samarrat at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Sa'Id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim.
- ★ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Drawings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products by Atallah Zabaneh.
- ★ First Exhibition of Jordanian Engineering and Electric Products at the Amman International Exhibition Hall, Marj Al Hamam.

OMAR .M. LATTOUF M.D., Ph.D

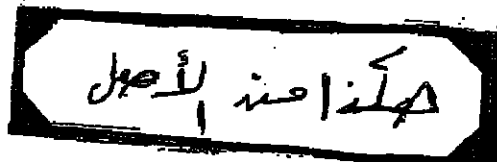
Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeon

- Associate professor of Surgery / Emory University - School of Medicine - Atlanta, Georgia USA.
- Ex-Chief, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery - Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia
- Fellow American College of Surgeons.
- Diplomate in JARVIA - 7 Mechanical Heart Transplantation / University of Utah.
- Diplomate American Board of Thoracic Surgery.
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Angolan foes sign peace pact

LUSAKA (R) — Angola's civil war foes signed an agreement Sunday to end 19 years of fighting but diplomats said UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's decision to delegate signing to a lower official diminished the accord.

The agreement was signed by Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and UNITA Secretary-General Eugenio Manuvaloka in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

Peacekeepers including U.N. chief negotiator Alioune Blondin Beye, could barely hide their anger at Mr. Savimbi for his last-minute decision to spurn an Angolan government guarantee of safe passage and send a subordinate to sign the accord.

Mr. Savimbi's failure to show up in Lusaka, despite pleas for him to sign from world leaders including U.S. President Bill Clinton, was seen by Angolan and other African officials as a snub.

"This protocol can't stop the fighting. It has no value because Savimbi has not signed it. There is a lot of distrust," one Angolan state negotiator said.

A senior Zimbabwean official added: "This diminishes the whole peace process. There is no seriousness."

But a Zambian official told Reuters as ushers led diplomats and southern African leaders to seats at a large, round table in the white-washed Mulungushi Centre that the accord could still end Angola's war, which has been fought continuously since independence from Portugal in 1975.

This is surely history in the making for the long-suffering Angolan people, for southern Africa and the world. Hopefully after today there will be no more war, no more tears," the official said.

Mr. Beye, who negotiated the accord in Zambia over the past year, praised both Mr. Savimbi and Angolan

President Eduardo Dos Santos for their peace efforts. "Dos Santos put aside legitimate considerations which would have been difficult to reconcile in order to consolidate national reconciliation," Mr. Beye said. "Savimbi contributed in a significant way to the completion of the peace process."

Sunday's accord is the climax to tortuous negotiations to stop a war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people, turned millions of others into refugees and brought the oil- and diamond-rich southern African country to its knees.

African heads of state led by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, head of the southern Africa's frontline states charged with ending regional conflicts, and Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, made no statement after meeting Saturday. They had been due to meet again Sunday prior to the signing. Last week's signing ceremony was postponed after UNITA refused to sign because of a government military offensive against rebel strongholds.

UNITA's headquarters at Huambo, in central Angola, were overrun by government troops who later took over other rebel-controlled areas in the north.

UNITA charged that this was a violation of the accord, initiated by the two sides on Oct. 31, and a truce they declared on Nov. 15. The government said the war was not over until a ceasefire took effect — two days after the pact's formal signing.

Zambian and U.N. sources said the United Nations had warned the Angolan government to stop its offensive once the peace agreement was signed Sunday.

"The U.N. has made it clear they will deal with the Angolan government firmly should it continue fighting after tomorrow's signing," one Zambian official said.



Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told parliament that the Russian army is in a catastrophic state and on the verge of collapse (AFP photo)

Russian military is in deepest crisis since Soviet collapse

MOSCOW (AP) — Beset by corruption scandals and infighting at the top, grappling with budget cuts and slumping morale, the Russian military is in its deepest crisis since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Fifty years after Red Army soldiers rolled over Nazi Germany, their sons and grandsons live in tents like squatters. Mothers mourn young conscripts killed by brutal hazing. Draft evasion is rampant. The electric company even cut the power to the nuclear forces once because of unpaid bills.

The top brass is trashed by allegations that corrupt officers are enriching themselves while recruits scrape by on near-starvation rations. Some are even accused of committing murder to cover their tracks.

The military's problems have become political as never before. There are calls in parliament for Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's ouster. Even President Boris Yeltsin, who has consistently backed Gen. Grachev, now sharply criticizes the military.

It has been a topsy-turvy fall from last year, when the army backed Mr. Yeltsin with tanks and troops in his battle with hardliners in the old, Soviet-era parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin was quick to reward his troops. He raised their salaries, exempted them from income taxes, scaled back defence conversion programmes and pushed through a long-awaited military doctrine to define the army's role in post-Soviet Russia. The military's prestige seemed assured.

But political realities and a sour economy have taken their toll.

Hardliners hold a bitter

grudge against Gen. Grachev for standing by Mr. Yeltsin during the October 1993 confrontation. The corruption charges have given them a chance to push for his ouster.

Mr. Yeltsin's gratitude also had its limits. He has pressured reluctant generals to trim the size of the armed forces.

The military got just half of what it asked for in 1994 from a government desperate to cut spending and rein in inflation. The proposed 1995 budget keeps spending at current levels.

In a heated session of parliament Friday, Gen. Grachev blamed virtually all his problems on money. He threatened to defy orders to cut the armed forces from its current 2 million troops, saying it would be impossible without a bigger budget.

Thousands of soldiers who came home with the withdrawal from Germany and the Baltics this year found themselves part of what Gen. Grachev calls "the army of 150,000 homeless officers."

Most of them "literally have ended up in the field," the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta said. "Officers and their families are living in tents and barracks."

More also is lost because the officers who pledged allegiance to the former Soviet Union now have no empire to defend. They are ordered to cooperate with former enemies in a new world order they see as dominated by the United States.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact," Gen. Grachev said, "was a profound trauma which has yet to be overcome."

Reports of army corruption abound. There are stor-

ies of soldiers selling weapons and military property, of lavish homes built for generals, of military airplanes transporting stolen cars, of mafia recruiters luring soldiers into their service.

A low point came last month, when a briefcase bomb killed Dmitry Kholodov, 27, a reporter for the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets.

Mr. Kholodov was investigating corruption in the military's Western Group, which recently pulled out of Germany. His newspaper has charged that top defence officials were behind Mr. Kholodov's killing.

Although Mr. Yeltsin stuck up for Gen. Grachev, he fired the former commander of the Western Group, a man Gen. Grachev had promoted to deputy defence minister. Mr. Yeltsin said he did it to "protect the honour" of the army.

Gen. Grachev insists the murder allegations are a "dirty political" game masterminded either by foreign spies or those who want to seize power in Russia.

There are also reports of deep splits within the Defence Ministry over Gen. Grachev's leadership. Those who openly aspire to his job include Gen. Alexander Lebed, a darling of the hardliners who once said Russia needs a dictator like Chile's Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The crisis of financing, leadership and spirit poses a test for the army — and the nation.

"Either the army will overcome the crisis... or it will decompose and turn into a criminal structure mortally dangerous for our society," wrote the weekly Moscow News.

Cinemas told to cancel The Fugitive

BEIJING (AP) — Eager filmgoers hoping to see Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive* went away grumbling this week after officials told Beijing theatres to stop showing the popular Hollywood movie. The film, regarded as the first top-rate foreign commercial film ever screened in Communist China, played to packed houses around the country after it opened Nov. 12. But Beijing officials have banned screenings in the city, to protect the domestic film distribution industry from U.S. filmmakers trying to "invade" China's movie market, the official China Business Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper said the film was cancelled because some officials who oversee the film industry believed that showing the movie would allow foreign distributors to muscle domestic films out of the market. It said U.S. filmmakers wanted not only profit, but also to "influence future generations of Chinese with Western thinking."

Although billboards for the film still adorned several Beijing cinemas Saturday, notices outside said it had been cancelled "because of unforeseen circumstances." Showing in place of *The Fugitive* were several older, more obscure U.S. films. When the ticket taker in theatre tried to convince disappointed moviegoers to see one of those films, she drew only shrugs and turned backs. "Those are all old," one young man murmured to his girlfriend before they walked away. Staff at two Beijing theatres said they had been instructed to replace it with different movies because of a disagreement among the officials in charge. It was unclear exactly when the theatres were forced to stop showing the film or how many people had seen it. The newspaper said it looked into the matter after receiving many phone calls from its readers.

AIDS victim gets 12 years for armed robberies

ROUEN, France (AFP) — A French court has sentenced a man suffering from the final stages of AIDS to 12 years in jail for two armed robberies committed in this northern French town in 1988, judicial officials said Saturday.

Eric Muguet, 30, had already received a 10-year sentence in March 1991 for another armed robbery in the French Alpine town of Chambéry.

Mr. Muguet and two accomplices, who netted 170,000 francs (\$32,000), were identified by surveillance cameras at the two banks they stole from, but only Muguet was arrested. He denied the charges. Mr. Muguet's defence lawyer had pleaded for his client to be let off given his state of health. He contracted acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus following a blood transfusion in 1983.

Sperm donor declared legal father

NEW YORK (AFP) — A court declared a sperm donor the legal father of a girl borne of an artificially inseminated semen and said he could demand visitation rights with the child. The New York Appeals Court ruling will allow Thomas Steel, a 44-year-old gay man from California who donated his sperm to a lesbian, to see his 13-year-old daughter regularly.

The girl's mother, Sandra Russo, had tried to block the visits, saying she would never have accepted Steel's sperm if she had known that he would seek visitation rights. In April last year, a judge had refused to grant Mr. Steel visitation rights on the grounds that he did not attempt to contact the child until she was three years old.

Man steals entire condom machine

WATERFORD, Michigan (AFP) — A man who wrapped up a night's beer drinking by allegedly stealing a condom machine from the men's bathroom of an Irish-style pub could face four years in prison. "It didn't take our officers long to solve the great condom caper," said police spokesman John Grimm.

There were lots of witnesses and he went straight home," Keith Bradford, 34, drank three beers before going into the bathroom, according to the Irish Tavern's bartender, who said moments later she saw him walking down the street with the machine.

Congress Party is losing support in key Indian state, poll says

BANGALORE, India (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party has lost substantial support in the southern Karnataka state where it is fighting crucial assembly elections in the next two weeks, an opinion poll said.

The poll by Delhi-based Current Opinion and Future Trends (COFT), made available to Reuters Sunday, said the Congress would win 55 to 60 seats in the 224-member assembly, a sharp fall from its three-fourths majority in the 1989 elections.

Mr. Rao needs to win in Karnataka and in his home state of Andhra Pradesh to keep his hold on the Con-

gress Party in Delhi.

The COFT poll said the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has never won power in any southern state, was the single largest party with a chance of getting to 60 to 70 seats.

The centrist Janata Dal with 55-65 and the breakaway Karnataka Congress Party of former Congress Chief Minister S. Bangarappa as the fourth contender with 25-30 seats.

Congress officials deny that the state polls, including Goa and Sikkim which held elections earlier this month were a referendum on Mr. Rao's three-year-old rule.

But they admit that defeat in the states could slow down

his economic reforms programme. Mr. Rao is projecting the reforms as the main achievement of his rule.

The poll said support for the Congress in Karnataka was the highest at 29 per cent followed by BJP's 24 per cent.

"In spite of having the highest COFT support index, the Congress is not leading in maximum number of seats," it said. "The electoral spread of votes is working against the Congress whose votes are scattered almost uniformly."

Several other opinion polls have predicted a hung assembly in Karnataka where elections will be held on Nov. 26 and Dec. 1.

46% of Norwegians against joining EU — poll

OSLO (AFP) — Forty six per cent of Norwegians remain opposed to joining the European Union (EU) just a week ahead of a referendum vote while 38 per cent are in favour and 19 per cent undecided, according to a poll published Sunday.

The poll, carried out by the MMI Institute and published in the daily Dagbladet, showed a fall of three per cent in the "no" vote compared to results of a similar poll Saturday, while "yes" voters increased by five points and those undecided fell by two.

Saturday's poll involving 1,226 people said that if one excludes those undecided the results mean that 54 per cent of the Norwegians are against membership and 46 per cent are in favour.

Norway next Sunday will be the last of four applicant states to hold a referendum on joining the EU. Austria, Finland and Sweden are set to join the EU on Jan. 1, 1995.

Meanwhile Finland's autonomous Aaland Islands were voting Sunday in a referendum on whether to follow their fellow Finns into the European Union.

Some 18,000 voters were eligible to take part in the vote, the results of which were expected after 1930 GMT.

Opinion polls predicted that voters would vote in favour of joining the EU in line with similar decisions on the mainland and in Sweden.

The 6,500 Aaland Islands, situated in the Baltic with a total population of 25,000, obtained permission in September from Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari to hold their own vote Sunday, the mainland having already decided to back EU membership by 56.9 per cent to 43.1 per cent in an Oct. 16 referendum.

An autonomy arrangement dating from 1922 gives the Aalands' own Lagting Assembly the right to approve any treaty adopted by Finland which concerns the islands in any way.

Mexican rebels 'ready for more war'

MEXICO CITY (R) — Indigenous guerrillas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas are "ready for more war" and are supported by armed groups in other parts of the country, rebel leader Marcos said in a speech.

"Brothers, the war is not over," Com. Marcos told troops and supporters of the self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army at a ceremony in the Lacandon jungle earlier this week to mark the 11th anniversary of the foundation of the rebel group.

"We are ready... if it is the order of our leaders, we, the mountain warriors... will fly

again through the air, the shadows and the land to speak the word of fire and death."

Com. Marcos gave no indication of when an order to resume fighting might come from the rebel leadership.

His speech, using imagery drawn from indigenous Maya lore, was published Saturday in several Mexican newspapers.

The Zapatista guerrillas, most of them Mayan peasants, rose up in arms on Jan. 1 to protest against repression of Mexico's indigenous peoples and to push for land reform and greater democracy.

They and the Mexican army have observed a ceasefire since Jan. 12 and the army has thousands of troops in position around the guerrilla strongholds. At least 145 people died in the opening days of the conflict.

"Zapatista arms are ready to rise up in the mountains of the north of Mexico, in the northwest, the south, the east and the centre of our country," said Com. Marcos, who as Zapatista military leader and spokesman follows orders from the rebels' commanding indigenous clandestine Revolutionary Committee.

Commonwealth envoy: Bangladesh mission failed

DHAKA (R) — Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen said Sunday he had failed to end Bangladesh's protracted political crisis and would leave the country soon.

"I hope there can still be a peaceful and speedy resolution of the issues that today divide your political parties," he told a news briefing.

"But I am so disappointed that I have not been successful in doing that," he said in a statement, refusing questions.

"Violence and uproar will achieve nothing. I urge the people of Bangladesh not to go down that road," he said, in comments which dismayed opposition politicians.

"Lady Stephen and I will be leaving Bangladesh very soon. Unfortunately, barring unforeseen and unlikely developments... I will not be able to report a successful outcome of my mission," he said. He arrived in Bangladesh on Oct. 13.

Sir Ninian criticised Bangladeshi political parties for

lacking wisdom and tolerance and said "suspicion and mistrust are both deep strong."

During his visit, both government and opposition refused all efforts toward compromise.

The opposition have boycotted parliament since February and mounted other protests to try to force the government to resign and call fresh polls.

The elected government need not call new polls until 1996.

"After very many conversations with all concerned, I put forward further proposals which I am confident that, if agreed and properly implemented, would address the concerns of both sides, thereby permitting a resolution of the current impasse," Sir Ninian said, without elaborating.

Suranjit Sengupta, a senior opposition leader, said he was not aware of any proposals made by Sir Ninian.

Appointed as a facilitator by the Commonwealth, Stephen has not only prom-

oted himself to the position of a mediator but an arbitrator. This is unfortunate," Mr. Sengupta claimed.

Mr. Sengupta said the opposition had tried to reach an agreement through dialogue and would now pursue its goal by other means. "The Commonwealth's failure will neither affect or change our position," he said.

Meanwhile, two leaders of the pro-government student group Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were shot dead in clashes with militant Islamic rivals in Chittagong port city Sunday, police and officials said.

Police said Mohammad Zamir, 25, died of bullet wounds while nearly 20 other people were injured as activists from the JCD, the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and the Islamist Chhatra Shibir fought with homemade bombs, guns and knives at the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute.

Chittagong city chief of the BNP, Mir Mohammad Nasir-

uddin, said a second JCD leader, Janagiri Alam, was killed when Shibir members sprayed him with bullets during the clash.

"The city is very tense," one police officer told reporters. Mr. Nasiruddin said BNP had asked police to arrest the killers if they wanted to avert more violence.

Some 25 vehicles were damaged, mostly by stoning, as the fighting spread onto nearby streets, one police officer said.

The institute is a stronghold of the JCD but Shibir, the student wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami Party, had been seeking its control for years. Chittagong officials said.

Miss India crowned Miss World

SUN CITY, South Africa (AFP) — Miss India, Aishwarya Rai, 21, was crowned Miss World 1994 here late Saturday, and promptly burst into tears.

She beat 86 other contestants in this casino resort in northern South Africa to win the title, worth nearly half a million dollars in prizes, including \$80,000 in cash.

Miss South Africa, Basetsane Makgalemele, 20, was placed second and Miss Venezuela, Irene Ferreira Izquierdo, 18, third.

"I can't believe it," Ms. Rai exclaimed when the out-

going Miss World, Lisa Hanna of Jamaica, placed the crown on her head.

"I don't know why I'm crying," she added. "This is the happiest moment of my life."

Questioned prior to her victory by one of the nine jury members, she said that, if she won the crown, she would "act with compassion for the least privileged" in society.

She also spoke out in favour of world peace, expressing sentiments largely inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism.

Ms. Rai, an architecture student whose main hobby is dancing, stands 1.70 metres (5ft 7in), tall.

She is only the second Indian to be crowned Miss World since the contest was launched in 1951, after Reita Faria in 1966. She was also judged the most photogenic by the photographers covering the event.

Makgalemele, the first black woman to elected Miss South Africa, received a rapturous reception from the crowd at Sun City, the venue for the contest for the third year in succession.



Video-grabbed picture from the BBC of TV presenter Noel Edmunds after the six numbers on BBC-1's The National Lottery Live (AFP photo)

Millions win U.K. lottery but no millionaires

LONDON (R) — Britain's new National Lottery produced more than a million winners but no instant millionaire.

Gambling fever seized the imagination of British punters who hoped to beat jackpot odds of 14 million to one, with 25 million tickets bought in the country's first lottery since 1826.

The organisers were taken by surprise as 1.1 million people won the minimum £10 (\$15.69) prize for selecting three of the six lucky numbers. This reduced the jackpot, with seven big winners each collecting £339,778 (\$1.32 million).

A bride bought a ticket on her way to church, a 100-year-old pensioner tried to win herself a holiday in Wales and a businessman hoped to win enough to build a new theatre.

Patients at the top-security Broadmoor Prison, whose inmates include the "Yorkshire Ripper" prostitute killer Peter

Sutcliffe, were even allowed by their warders to buy tickets.

About 30 million viewers — more than half the nation — were glued to their television screens Saturday for the draw.

The organisers called the lottery "an astounding success" but, with no big winners, promoters of the rival football pools were quick to gloat — they expect a \$2 million (\$3.14 million) winner from this weekend's soccer results.

David Rigg, communications director for the lottery organisers Camelot, said he expected next week's jackpot could total £4 million (\$6.27 million).

"We always believed that the National Lottery would be a great success over time but the enthusiasm with which the public have embraced the game so quickly is remarkable," he said. Camelot has a team of legal and financial advisers on hand to help the winners who

can request anonymity. But one tabloid newspaper offered a £10,000 (\$15,690) reward for anyone who could identify a jackpot winner.

Psychic "Mystic Meg" assured television viewers that all the winners' names started with J and they were born under the star sign Scorpio and married to either a Taurus or an Aquarius.

Half the proceeds were paid out in winnings and 28 per cent went to charities, the arts, sports, the national heritage and a special millennium fund set up to celebrate the year 2000.

The rest goes on costs, commission and tax. Lotteries have a long history in Britain. Tickets for the first licensed lottery were sold at the door of St. Paul's churchyard in London in 1569. National Lottery money freed English slaves in Tunis in 1660.

Lotteries were outlawed in 1826 after treasury officials ran off with the proceeds.

Cinemas told to cancel The Fugitive

...to cancel the film 'The Fugitive'...

Nepal Communists say vote rigging has cut lead

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's Communist Party accused the ruling Congress Party Sunday of extensive vote rigging to cut the Communist lead in near-complete election results.

"There has been extensive rigging during polling, repolling and counting," said Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Front.

"There is a conspiracy against the party and the government was afraid when UML started getting popular support," he told a news conference. "We will go to court against this rigging immediately."

The Communists led Congress by 86 seats to 75 with only 12 seats in the 205-seat parliament yet to be decided, meaning neither could win the 103 seats needed for an outright majority.

Congress had been as many as two dozen seats behind the Communists following Tuesday's voting but gained ground in late results at the weekend.

King Birendra set up a special tribunal before the elections to judge any complaints of polling malpractices.

An international group of observers invited by Nepal human rights organisations to monitor the elections released a report last week saying while the polls were generally fair and free, there had been irregularities, committed mostly by Congress.

"In some constituencies in five districts, because of the malpractices of the government, the victory of the opposition (UML) has been converted into our defeat," Mr. Nepal said.

According to our information, the Nepali Congress has defeated psychologically to create trouble," he said, claiming election authorities had barred the UML from observing vote counting and bundles of votes had been found in ballot boxes, many without signatures.

Without an overall majority in parliament, the Communists continued to pin their hopes on attracting dissent Congress lawmakers who abandoned Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala in a vote of confidence last July, triggering the snap polls.

The Communists sounded out Congress chief Krishna Prasad Bhattarai as well as elder statesman and former Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh, to whom many of the anti-Koirala congressmen are loyal, about joining a coalition.

"How to break this stalemate is a pertinent question," UML President Man Mohan Adhikari, widely expected to become the next prime minister, told Reuters in an interview.

"We are constantly in touch with Ganesh Man Singh," Mr. Adhikari said. "If he and his supporters can come out and support us, then it would be good."

"Bhattarai is ready to cooperate with us but he told us to wait for a few days for all the results to come in," Mr. Nepal said.

The UML general secretary said the Communist Party was "ready and its doors are open" to talks with all groups.

"If other political parties are not going to support us to form the government, then there will be no alternative to going to another poll," Mr. Nepal said.

Under Nepal's four-year-old constitution, in the event of a hung parliament King Birendra names as prime minister the parliamentarian he considers able to form a workable coalition government.

If no lawmaker can command a majority, then the king must choose the leader of the parliamentary party with the most seats. If a coalition fails to win a vote of confidence within 30 days, fresh polls must be called within six months.

Despite its eleventh-hour gains, Congress, which conceded defeat Saturday, showed no eagerness to try to form a coalition government given the deeply divided parliament.

"Since the people have voted us in a minority, they want us to go and sit in the minority," Congress spokesman Mahesh Acharya said. "We will do that."



French President Francois Mitterrand (centre) lays a wreath during a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster in which 42 perished in the northern French mining town of Liévin. Mr. Mitterrand bid farewell to his Socialist Party as the party met here to try to define a strategy for presidential elections due next spring (AFP photo)

Delors is shot in the arm for Socialists

LIEVIN, France (AFP) — A revived French Socialist Party made a new bid for power Sunday with Jacques Delors as its almost certain candidate, posing a serious threat to the right in next spring's presidential elections.

Cheered on by President Francois Mitterrand who made a special appearance here as the party staged a national congress, the Socialists endorsed a left-wing political platform denouncing "economic liberalism" and "neocapitalism."

But most of them also gave spoken or unspoken support to Mr. Delors, a social democrat on the right of the party, who, if elected next May, will likely be obliged to make alliances with the centre and even further right.

In his first direct gesture of support so far, party First Secretary Henri Emmanuelli Sunday called on Mr. Delors to stand, saying it was his "duty" and adding to loud applause, "If you make up your mind to do it, we shall all be with you."

Mr. Emmanuelli, who was confirmed as first secretary by 87.57 per cent of delegates, said the vast majority of Socialists backed Mr. Delors and there was no contradiction between a leftist party programme and a centrist presidential candidate.

The Socialists are down to 53 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, and until Mr. Delors, the 69-year-old outgoing European Commission president, emerged as a serious potential candidate, they had little prospect of making a comeback after

their rout in legislative elections in March, 1993.

The outgoing European Commission chief is riding high in opinion polls and presenting a major threat to a deeply divided right.

The ailing Mitterrand, suffering from prostate cancer but on form, Saturday bade farewell in this northern mining town to the party he founded in 1971, but at the same time rallied it with a call to "force victory" in the presidential elections.

Mr. Mitterrand, 78, was not at the congress, staged in an athletics stadium, but attended a ceremony close by to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster here in which 42 perished.

He told an enthusiastic crowd of miners and most of the 2,000 Socialist delegates who flocked from the congress to greet him: "I made a point of being with you. Here are gathered together the women and the men at whose side I fought for so long and whom I am happy to meet again."

At the stadium overlooking a landscape of slag heaps and abandoned mines, other Socialist barons had earlier backed Mr. Delors. Outside the stadium, amid giant red rose-and-fist Socialist emblems, his supporters waved banners saying "Delors for president" and "Delors candidate."

Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said the congress marked "the rebirth of hope" echoing another expression, Pierre Mauroy in backing Mr. Delors. So did Mr. Delors' own daughter, Martine Aubry, 44, a rising

star in the party and media favourite.

Only two speakers came out full against Mr. Delors. Senator Jean-Luc Melenchon and MP Julien Dray, on the far left of the party.

The European Commission president, a card-carrying member, did not attend the congress.

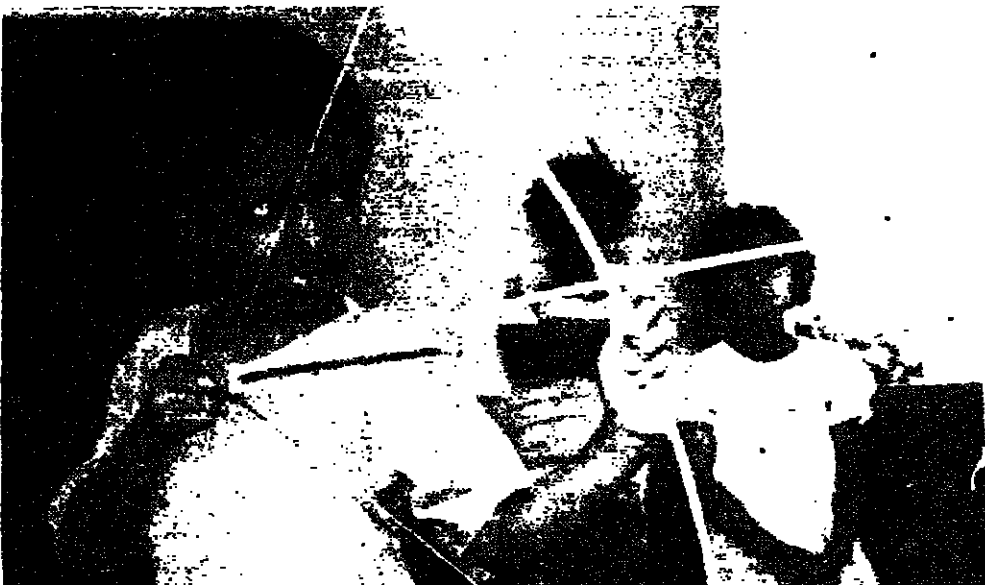
Mr. Mitterrand has strongly backed Mr. Delors to succeed him and his visit to Liévin, a bastion of socialism which voted for him by 79 per cent in 1988 when he was elected for a second seven-year term, was intended as a symbol.

But on Saturday he gave no formal hint of who was his favourite for the presidential contest, joking: "Elect whoever you like, preferably me... (a Socialist), it would be better than the other way round."

Mr. Mitterrand was responding to a warning by undeclared candidate Edouard Balladur, the conservative prime minister, Friday that right-wing disunity risked letting through a Socialist for the third time.

"The essential is to make sure that it is not the Socialist candidate who is elected for the third time," Mr. Balladur said, giving the measure of the Delors threat.

The Liévin congress did not formally invest Mr. Delors. A special party convention will be staged at the end of January formally to choose a Socialist candidate. Party spokesman Jean Glavany said the convention would work out a "contract" with him and a presidential platform.



Junior, the nine-year-old son of East Timorese guerrillas, plays with a self-made bow and arrow at an orphanage in Venilale, about 120 kilometres from the East Timor capital of Dili. Junior's parents are leaving him in the orphanage's care while they fight against Indonesian government forces for East Timorese independence (AFP photo)

E. Timorese attend mass for peace

DILI, East Timor (R) — Catholics in East Timor's capital Dili attended mass Sunday and prayed for peace in the troubled former Portuguese colony that has been rocked by week-long pro-independence protests.

Meanwhile, two East Timorese protesters from a group of 29 youths held up in the U.S. embassy compound in Jakarta for the last eight days were taken to hospital Sunday afternoon.

The group earlier met with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the first time. The ICRC has said it would help prepare travel documents for the youths if they decide to seek asylum.

In one of the biggest turnouts for mass, some 1,000 East Timorese crammed into a small open space at the Dili home of the outspoken Bishop Carlos Belo to say prayers and sing hymns.

Bishop Belo, who gave a sermon in the native Tetu language, called on the hundreds of youths present to exercise restraint and not aggravate tension in the tiny territory which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed one year later.

The calm scene at Bishop Belo's residence contrasted sharply with a mass held there last Sunday when 100 East Timorese began unfurling banners and denouncing

the Indonesian government when the service finished.

Mr. Belo's call for restraint seemed to have an effect as a scores of youths attending showed their displeasure at the presence of plain-clothed security officials by merely clapping and jeering.

"We are showing that we are not happy with the police who are always around Belo's house. But there will be nothing more than this (clapping)," a youth said.

It has been a tense week for many in Dili where rampaging youths brought the capital to a standstill, destroying more than a dozen shops and smashing cars and buses.

Abacha rejects request to free Abiola

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, has rejected a request made to him by a visiting U.S. congressional delegation to free opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola, the delegation leader Harry Johnston, said here.

"At the beginning of our talks with General Abacha late Friday in Abuja, when we requested him to set Abiola free, he (Abacha)

turned us down," Mr. Johnston said at a private dinner organised in honour of his delegation by Mr. Abiola's family.

Speaking earlier Saturday at a news conference here, a member of the delegation, William Jefferson, had expressed the hope that Mr. Abiola would have "a fair process" of trial and in accordance with the nation's judicial system.

Mr. Abiola, is currently detained in Abuja on charges of treason for proclaiming himself president and head of the armed forces.

Corroborating the report of Mr. Abiola's personal physician on the deteriorating state of health of the millionaire Muslim politician, the leader of the American delegation said "Abiola is not in good health."

Pressure grows on U.N. for air strikes at Krajina Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — Pressure built on the U.N. to strike at the Serbs from the air Sunday to help Muslims under ground and air attack in the Bihac enclave of northwest Bosnia.

Hours after the U.N. Security Council decided to widen the scope for intervention by NATO warplanes, Muslim media reported that Bihac towns and their government defenders were under heavy assault by Serb forces and their allies among rebel Muslims.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said Serb tanks were rolling through villages towards the U.N. safe haven of Bihac town and added:

"The concrete action would be to take out these tanks — serious air strikes."

The Canadian head of U.N. peacekeepers in the enclave said local people turned on his men in anger after two Serb air raids.

He appealed to commanders of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia "to do their utmost to stop these outrageous violations of international law."

UNPROFOR, usually hesitant to use NATO air power, is considering whether to allow the alliance to attack and disable Udbina Air Base on Serb-held territory in neighbouring Croatia.

NATO monitors said the air raids, on the towns of Bihac and Cazin, were launched from the base although the claim was denied by Serbs quoted by the Yugoslav news agency (Tanjug).

A Serb Orao ground attack plane crashed into an apartment block in Cazin during a raid Saturday, killing the pilot and wounding at least nine residents, some seriously.

The Security Council responded to the raids Saturday by authorising NATO for the first time to attack Serb targets in Croatia.

Croatia backed the decision. Meteorologists said weather conditions for air strikes were "fair." The U.N. made clear there would be no advance notice of its intentions, although all its units in former Yugoslavia were placed on a state of high alert.

"There will be no comment (beforehand) on these issues," spokesman Paul Rieley said in Zagreb.

Although the rules of engagement in the Bosnian conflict do not allow punitive air strikes, the political, diplomatic and military pressure on UNPROFOR was enormous.

Madeline Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said: "My government believes that this pattern of military activity justifies a military response from NATO."

The American ambassador to NATO said of a possible request to launch an air strike: "If they (the U.N.) don't, then we (NATO) will."

The U.N.'s reluctance to use NATO is usually based on a fear of exposing U.N. troops on the ground to Serb retaliation and of being seen to take sides.

The air strike option has been held in reserve in Bihac although the Serbs have both flouted the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia and have attacked the U.N. safe haven of Bihac town.

Muslim media followed up the Security Council decision with emotional appeals for help and warnings that the Serbs were continuing to

make gains.

Sarajevo Radio said villages along the Serb-held border between Croatia and Bihac were falling to a joint force of Muslim rebels and Serbs.

Its reporter in Bihac broadcast: "UNPROFOR has still not asked for help from the air by NATO though it has had a thousand reasons for it."

"Bihac is burning, Velika Kladija is burning, the sky and the earth is burning... come from New York and implement your resolutions."

Bitterly attacking the inactivity of U.N. peacekeepers, Mr. Silajdzic said: "If UNPROFOR and the U.N. cannot carry out their mandate here, cannot protect the safe zones, cannot see that convoys pass through, we wonder why they are here."

Most of the U.N. peacekeepers in Bihac belong to a Bangladeshi battalion sent there hurriedly with no medical supplies and hardly any weapons when French troops withdrew in the autumn.

U.N. spokesman Jan-Dirk Mirveldt admitted there was "major concern" for the Bangladeshis since the Serb air raids.

Vietnam, China put disputes to one side

HANOI (R) — Former enemies China and Vietnam agreed at the highest level Sunday to put their differences aside and focus on developing friendship, a Chinese spokesman said.

The agreement came in talks between delegations led by Communist Party chiefs Jiang Zemin of China and Do Muoi of Vietnam at the start of a three-day visit by Mr. Jiang, who is also China's head of state.

"Both sides will proceed from the overall interest of friendly relations... as well as of peace and stability in this region," spokesman Chen Jian told reporters.

"They will... seek appropriate solutions to these problems by adhering to patient consultations," he added.

"The two sides believe they should enhance common understanding and seek common ground while putting aside their differences so these problems will not affect the normal development of friendly relations."

They did not even discuss border disputes on land and in the South China Sea, such as their rival claims to the Spratly Islands," Mr. Jian said.

Mr. Jiang said the two countries, trying to accelerate economic development,

should try hard to promote cooperation... and exploit their complementarity, Mr. Jian reported.

"Both sides should make major efforts to tap such potentials," he added.

Mr. Jian said three agreements would be signed before Mr. Jiang leaves Tuesday — on setting up a trade commission, regulating the quality of import and export goods, and on truck transport.

The tone of the talks as outlined by China confirmed that the world's two biggest Communist states, who fought a border war in 1979 and clashed in the Spratly Islands, were not in the mood to

squabble while they concentrated their energies on building market economies.

Despite periodic arguments over the Spratlys, oil-drilling rights and other issues, relations have slowly improved since relations were normalised in 1991.

They signed an accord last year to shun the use of force in settling disputes, but have announced no fresh agreements in talks on border issues.

Mr. Jiang is the most senior Chinese leader to come to Vietnam since the normalisation, and the first Chinese Communist Party boss ever to do so.

Ahern vows to get N. Ireland peace back on rails

LONDON (R) — Ireland's potential new Prime Minister Bertie Ahern pledged Sunday to get the Northern Ireland peace process back on the rails after a traumatic political week in the Irish Republic.

His determination to keep peace alive was echoed by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing.

Mr. Ahern, elected unopposed Saturday as leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest political party, told BBC Television: "Peace on the island, saving lives is more important than any other political objective."

The 43-year-old finance minister now faces delicate backroom negotiations with the Labour Party, Fianna Fail's coalition partners who brought down Prime Minister Albert Reynolds over his handling of an extradition case.

Mr. Ahern, the youngest leader in his party's 70-year history, said: "Whatever we do, we must try to end the political instability, build on the peace process and try and get that back on the rails quickly."

He said it was crucial for Mr. Reynolds to continue to play a part in the peace process, launched last year with an Anglo-Irish peace declaration and then built on with ceasefires declared by the IRA and their Protestant foes.

Mr. Ahern also promised to press for an early meeting with British Prime Minister John Major. Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds were due to hold a summit next month.

Gerry Adams, a key player in the struggle to find peace after 25 years of guerrilla conflict and more than 3,100 deaths, said: "I think Republicans are very, very committed to this process."

Asked if he saw the IRA returning to the bomb and the bullet, Mr. Adams said: "I would like to think we have left that behind us."

He said he was opposed to punishment beatings by the IRA whose victims are shot in the kneecaps for such offences as drug running and joy riding. But he denied police claims that the beatings had increased since the Sept. 1 IRA ceasefire.

Mr. Ahern was quick to dampen any expectations of an early resolution to Ireland's latest political crisis.

Parliament reconvenes Tuesday to pick a new prime minister but Mr. Ahern said he expected the issue would not be resolved "for a week or so."

He pointed to Irish opinion polls showing that the vast majority of people did not want a general election just 22 months after the ill-fated coalition came to power.

"Certainly the vast majority would go for a Fianna Fail-Labour coalition again rather than any national government or any other combination, so we have to take that into account," Mr. Ahern said.

Meanwhile, some 50 hardliners are preparing to defy the Irish Republican Army's leadership and begin a bombing campaign in Britain and Northern Ireland, the Sunday Times said.

The newspaper, citing senior security officials, said the IRA's leaders had given the IRA's leaders an impossible deadline of next March to bring "the total surrender" of the British government in Northern Ireland.

Evidence of a split in IRA ranks, with hardliners chafing at what they see as slow progress since the IRA declared a ceasefire on Aug. 31, confirms growing fears that the peace process in Northern Ireland is in jeopardy, it said.

The Irish Times reported Saturday that Mr. Adams, president of the IRA's poli-

tical wing Sinn Fein, had sent a private warning that the political crisis in Dublin could give IRA rebels an early opportunity to resume violence.

The Sunday Times said the breakaway group, as yet unnamed, had formed a skeleton command structure and appointed key military commanders ready to direct a new campaign of violence.

England would be a prime target for the breakaway group, according to intelligence sources cited by the paper.

It quoted Michael Cassidy, the City of London's head of security policy, as saying the IRA was continuing to move weapons and equipment around and that the capital's financial district would be a leading target.

"During the ceasefire period their operatives have been observed doing dummy runs on targets that they might want to hit. They are taking the system by getting stolen vehicles into place without being detected," Mr. Cassidy told the paper.

The paper said British intelligence's "cautious" assessment of the continuing IRA threat was one of the main reasons why Mr. Major has been reluctant to rush into talks with Mr. Adams.

Murayama's power base is seen crumbling

TOKYO (R) — A senior leader of Japan's ruling Socialists called Sunday for the party to disband and re-form under former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's administration.

"It is realistic to form a new party sometime between the end of the extraordinary Diet (parliamentary) session in December and the start of the regular Diet session in January," he told a trade union seminar Saturday.

It was unclear if the party's left-wingers, who are the main backers of Mr. Murayama's coalition government, would join forces with their right-wing rivals in a new party.

"If ghosts came out to block the new party scheme, we would have to wipe them out," said Mr. Kubo, the party's second most senior leader after Chairman Murayama.

Construction Minister Koken Nosaka, a Socialist, warned Sunday against threats to walk out of the party. "With the defection by

a (rebel) faction, the party won't be able to unite on a full scale," he told reporters.

"Now is the time for the entire party to support the Murayama government," he added.

Mr. Kubo said the new party's "vision" should be formulated by the time opposition parties launched their new, amalgamated party.

Nine parties of the non-Communist opposition are due on Dec. 10 to form a "grand" new party to take on Mr. Murayama's four-month-old coalition, which also includes the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the small Sakegake Party.

Some political analysts said the Socialists, deeply split between the right and the left, were likely to avoid a major break-up.

"As we have seen in the past, the Socialists are genius compromisers, although they chronically confront with one another," leading political commentator Minoru Morita

said in a television interview Saturday.

He said the Socialist Party might simply change its name and policy platform.

After Mr. Murayama took office in June, the Socialist Party overhauled its basic hard-left policies on the armed forces, the U.S.-Japan security pact and nuclear power plants in a radical attempt to bring the party into the post-cold war era.

The latest move by Socialist rebels could pressure Mr. Murayama to reshuffle his cabinet and even call snap elections, analysts said.

"I believe there is a 50 per cent chance of general elections being called in January or February," said former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, leader of the Japan Renewal Party, the biggest single opposition group in parliament.

Mr. Murayama, who has the sole right to dissolve the lower house and hold general elections at any time, does not have to do so until mid 1997.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Doors that should never close

SULTAN QABOOS' call on Saturday for fresh interpretations of Islamic laws to suit modern-day life could not have come at a more opportune time. Stagnation has not only given way to fundamentalism, which in turn spawned fanaticism, it has also divided Muslims and the Islamic World. Several Muslim countries are unfortunately in the throes of bloody civil strife because of religious extremism and intolerance. Sultan Qaboos thus seized the opportunity of Oman's national day to sound the alarm about that "stagnation" which has resulted in the drift to backwardness and weakness.

The Sultan, in issuing his call, must have had in mind the "Bab Al Ijtihad," meaning the door of interpretation, when he voiced his concern about the lack of evolutionary construction of Islamic Sharia. This available but unused opening has been viewed by many Muslim scholars as one of the greatest missed opportunities of our time.

The Omani leader was obviously correct when he reminded the faithful that new questions and issues have arisen since the times of the Prophet Muhammad which necessitated new answers and solutions. That is in essence why "Bab Al Ijtihad" has always been considered as one of the principal pillars of Islam that should have remained open and available for the orderly evolution of the religion. The built-in mechanism for keeping Islam the progressive religion it was meant to be has to be put to the test in the full confidence that it will work and produce positive results. Many Muslim theologians who have mistaken faith have, sadly, remained silent so far for fear that raising this issue could make them suspect in the eyes of the ultra-conservative elements among us.

As this subject is very delicate and complex, it needs to be approached with a maximum degree of coverage, honesty and faith. It goes without saying that not every Muslim enjoys the necessary credentials to speak out on this dimension of Islam. The right course to adopt in this vein is to call for an all Islamic conference for this purpose to be attended by knowledgeable and eminent people. The Islamic World can no longer afford to ignore this pressing subject. As Sultan Qaboos has aptly observed, "it is really sad that the stagnation (in Islam) has resulted in a weakness of the Muslim Nation which in recent years has brought about fanaticism based on a lack of knowledge among the Muslim youth about the correct facts of their religion."

"Obstinacy in religious understandings," Sultan Qaboos warned, "leads to backwardness in Muslims, the prevalence of violence and intolerance."

These words are a timely reminder that the interpretation of Islamic laws and principles needs to be put on course. The drift can only lead to ignorance and consequently division and fanaticism.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WAS natural for the sad events in Gaza to cause pain to the Arabs and Muslims everywhere in the world and not to the Palestinian people alone, said Al Dustour daily Sunday. Jordan's statement expressing regret over the incidents and calling on the Palestinians to exercise self-restraint and maintain unity of ranks showed the Jordanian people's sadness over the death and injury of the innocent people and reflected the feelings of all Arabs and Muslims who are keen on protecting Arab lives and interests and who are concerned over the future of the Palestinian people, said the daily. There is need for the Palestinian brothers to resort to reason and abstain from making any moves that could be interpreted as hostile to other Palestinians holding different views, cautioned the daily. It said that the Palestinians face hardships and live under very difficult circumstances due to the Israeli occupation, poverty and unemployment, but resorting to violence to settle disputes or to express feelings can by no means solve these problems but rather complicate them further, added the daily. Expressing sympathy over the dead and wounded in the tragic Friday events, the paper expressed hope that there would be no more bloodshed and that the Palestinians would pool their resources and their potentials to achieve the common goals.

FAHD AL FANEK said that having signed a peace treaty with Israel, Jordan is supposed to reduce military expenditure and direct funds towards economic and social development. But the columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that the government sent no signal yet that it would do so in the 1995 fiscal year which is currently being prepared by the concerned departments. The writer said that since most of the expenditure goes for services, salaries, fuel and other necessities, and since it is unlikely that the government will reduce the number of Armed Forces personnel for the time being, at least in view of the rising rate of unemployment in the Kingdom, the level of expenditure is bound to remain the same if not increase. Expressing the view that Jordan will continue to need a ready army regardless of the peace treaty with Israel, the writer noted that a big portion of the budget for the Armed Forces is allocated for health services and education for children of the Armed Forces personnel in addition to such services as building bridges and offering assistance to the public. The writer said the country remains in need of the Armed Forces in times of war and peace because their services are essential for the nation.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

Human rights can only benefit from peace in the region

SOME PEOPLE who oppose the peace treaty that was ratified last week base their rejection of the treaty on their fears for the future of Jordan and the Arab World that could be threatened by the Israeli designs. It is a legitimate and reasonable concern, but not absolutely valid. Israel may at the end of the line, have more to fear from peace in the region than the Arab side. As a matter of fact I have always subscribed to the proposition that Israel could weaken in the long term after it drops its siege mentality and become part of the Middle East. Of course there will always be some ground for the premise that the Israelis would be able to penetrate the Arab market and extend its sophisticated hegemony over it.

There is always the possibility that such interventions could make some Arab businesses subservient to Israeli conglomerates and the Arab markets fertile soil for Israeli entrepreneurs. The probability that the reverse could happen, however, must not be belittled. Jordanian, Syrian or Lebanese business communities are no novice when it comes to making business and their abilities to penetrate the Israeli market cannot therefore be dismissed out of hand. At worst, I see a two-way traffic among equal partners. At best I see the weight of Arab quantitative advantage coupled with the huge Arab capital as outweighing the cumulative Israeli potential.

Of course the Israeli political and security institutions are superior to anything that exists in the Arab World and on that basis it, may in theory, succeed to penetrate Arab security apparatus and undermine Arab control over the future. On the other hand, increased social, economic and political contacts with the Israeli side stand to erode the long-term Israeli advantages in these areas, especially when time can be expected to make the Israelis more Middle Eastern in their perspectives and less Western.

The frequency of the contacts between the two peoples can only bridge the gaps between them. This is the lesson of history everywhere in the world. The Israelis are after all human beings just like us, ready to integrate and become integrated. Give or take twenty five years, the distinction between them and us can be projected to decrease to the minimum. As long as the Arab side keeps its eyes wide open and learns to play the game properly and intelligently, Israel, and not the Arab countries, runs the risk of weakening under the impact of peace in the region. Why I write this column under the heading of human rights is simply explained by the fact that peace related issues are part and parcel of human rights.

The immediate and long-term impact of peace on the realisation of human rights in all their dimensions is too clear to require a comment. I see greater opportunities for the Arab peoples to achieve their multi-faceted human rights under conditions of peace than under conditions of wars and tensions. That is why there is a distinct stake for all of us who are concerned about the development of human rights among our midst.

There are no ironclad assurances that peace in the area would automatically advance the cause of human rights in our region of the world. Yet, in relative terms, peaceful conditions have always contributed to the rise of human rights as a national cause. Israel's human rights record leaves much to be desired when it comes to minority rights and discrimination between a Jew and a non-Jew. On other levels, Israel has developed a rather sophisticated degree of human rights for its own people from which we can learn a lot.

Peace with the Arabs may contribute to ending the preferential treatment given to Israeli Jews in general and occidental Jews in particular. Thus, peace with Israel bodes well for human rights everywhere one looks.

Prevent a return to all-out war in ex-Yugoslavia

By Adam Roberts, John Chipman, Philip H. Gordon, Mats Berdal

LONDON — Battlefield advances by Bosnian government forces in the former Yugoslavia and shifts in U.S. policy on the arms embargo remind us that wars may appear static but are not. In this new environment, the international community needs to rethink its policies.

Too much passivity (patience in letting the parties fight or come to terms by themselves) or too much activity (impatience in seeking to force changes it cannot control) could lead to renewed all-out war.

There are three sets of developments on which the international community has to make the right decisions if the conflict and the prospects for peace are not to take a dramatic turn for the worse, back to the horrors of 1991-1992.

The least talked about set of developments, but perhaps the most potentially explosive, is those in Croatia. The conflict between the government of Croatia and the three Serb-held areas within Croatia remains serious.

Since the arrival of a United Nations Protection Force in the spring of 1992, these three regions (comprising the so-called Serb Republic of Krajina) have been relatively quiet, and the world's attention has focused on the savagery of Bosnia. But the Croatian conflict has only been frozen, not resolved, and the changing balance of power in the region could lead to attempts to settle it by force.

The government of Croatia is increasingly fed up with the role it perceives the U.N. force to be playing on its territory. As many Croats see it, the force is not fulfilling its mandate to demilitarise the three Serb-held U.N. Protected Areas, control borders and permit the return of displaced Croats to their homes, but is rather protecting the Serbs who drove those persons from their homes and depriving Croatia of its vital communication links in the east and the south.

The Croats do not want the creation of a state within a state, and are impatient with the U.N. force's lack of progress.

The Krajina Serbs who fear for their safety in a Croatian state give no hint that they would accept any autonomy plan that did not leave them virtually in charge of their regions. They point to provocative symbols like the new Croatian currency, the kuna, which was previously used by the fascist Croatian state during World War II.

The Zagreb government's line is that it will not cede an inch of territory, while the Krajina Serbs assert that they would rather die heroically than accept Croatian rule. Negotiations about the future of these areas proceed under various auspices, but they do not look promising.

During the last two years

the Croatian government has equipped and trained its armed forces. It now possess a more professional military capability that it may soon be tempted to use. In January the Croatian Parliament will vote on an extension of the U.N. force's mandate; approval is far from assured.

The Krajina Serbs feel that time is working against them as the Croats build up their forces, as their own fuel shortages become acute and as Serbia distances itself from the Serbs outside. But they are in no mood for compromise despite their situation.

The status quo is thus shaky, and if the U.N. force has to pull out, or even if it stays, the next step could be war.

The second set of developments where change needs to be managed concerns Bosnia. After two and a half years of military success, the Bosnian Serbs recently suffered their first major tactical reverse. Faced with sanctions imposed last August by their supposed brethren in Serbia, they are militarily overextended and face a Bosnian government army that is better organised, collaborates with Bosnian Croat forces, has internal lines of communication and has developed a strategy for using the comparative advantage that its greater infantry provides.

While the Bosnian Serbs are now finding it difficult to find the fuel they need to move around their tanks and artillery pieces, the Bosnian government forces are receiving arms through a leaky embargo and have begun to capture weapons from the Bosnian Serb forces.

In theory, the pressure on the Bosnian Serb forces should assist efforts at a Bosnian settlement. After all, the policy of the Contact Group (United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany) is to pressure the Bosnian Serb leadership into accepting a proposed partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which includes some territorial concessions by the Serbs. However, increased pressure on the Bosnian Serbs could lead to a wider disaster.

With their backs against the wall, and sensing that time is on the side of their enemies, the Bosnian Serbs might conclude that their best is to force the departure of the U.N. force and "execute" some or all of their metaphorical hostages — Bihac, Sarajevo and the three eastern enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica — thus freeing up the artillery and troops needed to besiege them and using these resources elsewhere.

Even if the Bosnian Serbs were just to retreat, if they could not reverse their losses, Slobodan Milosevic and others in Serbia might not be able to stand by and watch fellow Serbs suffer. The Yugoslav army, perhaps acting on its own, might feel pressure to intervene. The Croatian Serbs have already done so.

In any case, the new military dynamism is putting internal pressure on the contact group, with some members condemning the Bosnian government actions and others cheering its successes.

The third way in which the current Yugoslav conflict might escalate derives not from the inside but from actions currently being considered outside.

Last Friday the U.S. government announced that it would no longer take part in the military enforcement of the embargo so far as Bosnia is concerned. America may attempt to go further and supply arms on a unilateral basis, or try to get the Security Council to lift the embargo. The policy announced last Friday is straining the coherence of the contact group and the unity of NATO. Going further would pose even more acute problems, including in Bosnia itself.

The Bosnian government, of course, is already getting new arms (the Croats let "grey market" arms get through), and the heavier weapons that could come in where the embargo lifted would only make a military difference over time.

Lifting the formal arms embargo would have three immediate practical effects, all undesirable. First, it would announce to all concerned that the United Nations is no longer impartial but a party to the conflict.

Second, the U.N. force would almost certainly leave Bosnia and probably Croatia immediately, not only ending the relief programme but also destroying the existing foundation of a future force (envisaged as being under a NATO label) to implement a settlement.

Third, lifting the embargo would reinforce the sense of the Bosnian Serbs that time is against them and that they should take extreme measures now.

American proponents of lifting the embargo and critics of UN "appeasement" claim that they are doing the moral thing by allowing victims to defend themselves. But set against the reality of arms getting into Bosnia anyway, their proposal is more theoretical than practical. They need to reflect on the consequences of their proposal, not only for allied unity but also for the hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Sarajevo and the enclaves who would be at risk of being killed, starved or captured by a cornered Bosnian Serb army and leadership.

The new dynamism of the situation in former Yugoslavia, and the shifts in U.S. policy, have created a set of problems that need to be handled carefully. The contact group and the U.N. Protection Force must take certain steps, and avoid taking others. In an effort to prevent a further humanitarian disaster possibly even worse than that of the earlier phase of the conflict.

First, the temptation to lift the arms embargo must be resisted in the Security Council. The British and French should not hide behind a probable Russian veto and should make clear their principled opposition to any such resolution. Forcing the Russians to play "bad cop" at the United Nations would wrongly portray the arms embargo debate as an East-West issue and would unnecessarily exacerbate Russian resentment of the West.

Were the U.S. government to allow its own citizens unilaterally to supply arms to the Bosnian government, it would risk the absurdity of a direct clash with a NATO still committed to enforcing the arms embargo against all traders.

Second, the international community needs urgently to concentrate on the situation in Croatia. Members of the contact group, particularly Bonn and Washington, should impress on Zagreb that any early attempt to regain by force the three Serb-held U.N. Protected Areas UNPA in Croatia would lead to international isolation.

It could also lead to a new Serbian Croatian war if the Yugoslav army were militarily to support the Krajina Serbs. To avert any such outcome, the U.N. force should intensify its efforts to deliver on its mandate in the UNPAs.

Although demilitarisation is impossible in the absence of consent, the United Nations could still engage in more vigorous policing of the UNPA borders and redouble its efforts for the return of displaced people. If the U.N. force is obliged to leave Croatia, which provides its headquarters, its continuance in Bosnia becomes virtually impossible.

Third, in farming a political solution for Bosnia, the contact group needs openly to confront the viability of a state that was prematurely born. Bosnian government forces have achieved important military successes recently, but no one should doubt the military and political impossibility of putting the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina back together again.

Because of the disputes within Serbdom, the solution that the Bosnian Serbs previously called for (attachment to Serbia) may no longer be their first choice. Yet leaving space for a possible confederation between Bosnian Serbs and Serbia may be the best available avenue to peace.

Mr. Roberts is Montague Burton professor of international relations at Balliol College, Oxford. Mr. Chipman is Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. Mr. Gordon is a senior fellow at the Institute, and Mr. Berdal a research fellow. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Prohibiting political activity of the Orient House contravenes U.N. resolutions

By Pascal B. Karmy

Article 1 of the Oslo accord of Sept. 13, 1993, between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel provides, inter alia that after the five-year interim period the permanent settlement be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and that "it is understood that the interim arrangements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

It is common knowledge that the Orient House is situated in East Jerusalem which was occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed on June 28, 1967. On July 30, 1980, in defiance of world opinion, Israel enacted a law which proclaimed Jerusalem its eternal capital. On Aug. 20, 1980, the Security Council by its decision No. 478 condemned in the strongest terms Israel's action (by 14 votes to 0 with the U.S. abstaining) and declared the Israel law as null and void and called upon those states that had established diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw them from the city.

Recently, and again in defiance of international law and the will of the international community, the Israeli Knesset has passed a law prohibiting any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Orient House, the de facto seat of the PLO as represented by Faisal Al Hussein who is also a member of the Palestine National Authority. The Likud Party opposed the law in the Knesset on the ground that it is superfluous inasmuch as the Likud claimed, the law of 1980 already considers East Jerusalem as integral part of Israel and consequently the Israeli government could take any step or measure necessary to curb or put an end to Palestinians activity in the part of the city.

However, notwithstanding the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem to Israel, it is in fact, and according to customary and conventional international law, an integral part of the occupied territory of the West Bank. Moreover, this legal status is recognised by all states of the world as evidenced by the fact that, with two or three exceptions, the embassies of those states are not stationed in Jerusalem but in Tel-Aviv. Even Israel's High Court of Justice has unwittingly admitted that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was an occupied territory, although it was hesitant to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to this territory. And it goes without saying that when the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will establish diplomatic and consular relations with Israel as required by Article 5 of the peace treaty between them the latter and the Kingdom, it will station the embassy and consular corps not in Jerusalem but in Tel-Aviv.

The legal status of East Jerusalem being as described above, Mr. Faisal Al Hussein is fully entitled to carry on any political activity, without disturbing public order, including welcoming representatives of foreign states or other important world personalities, as he did when he received Tansu Ciller, the prime minister of Turkey, a few weeks ago. Moreover, the Orient House in Jerusalem was the centre of activity which guided the Palestinian representatives during the negotiations with Israel which started in 1991, with out any objection on the part of Israel and at a time when the radical Likud Party and other die-hard reactionary parties were in power.

Because East Jerusalem is in law a part of the Palestinian occupied territory and because Israel had, before the Oslo accord, accepted Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the city is imperatively subject to the principle of exchange of territory for peace. It must in consequence be returned to the Palestinian

people, with whom sovereignty ultimately resides, as had been rightly stated by the former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. This legal status is moreover enhanced by the fact that Article 1 of the Oslo accord expressly refers to the two resolutions which laid down the principle of the exchange of territory for peace.

It is true that the question of Jerusalem, among other issues, is to be negotiated at a later stage during the permanent status negotiations which will take place according to Article (2)-(3) of the Oslo accord not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, that is to say by about the end of 1996. But obviously this postponement of the negotiation on Jerusalem does not in any way derogate from its recognised legal status. On the contrary, Israel has admitted by the accord that Jerusalem is negotiable, and not "non-negotiable" as often declared by Israel in the past, although it is still claiming that Jerusalem is its eternal capital.

It should be further observed that the permanent status negotiations on Jerusalem, provided for in the Oslo accord, should not be prejudiced or preempted by Israeli actions or measures such as I believe, the passing of a law restricting or prohibiting the political activity of the Orient House or, for that matter, any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem. In addition, any such law or measure contravenes the pertinent United Nations Security resolutions and the various relevant U.N. General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem.

... The permanent status negotiations on Jerusalem, provided for in the Oslo accord, should not be prejudiced or preempted by Israeli actions or measures such as... the passing of a law restricting or prohibiting the political activity of the Orient House or, for that matter, any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Faisal Al Hussein has rightly declared that Israel must realise that the Palestinians have one of two options to adopt: Either pursuing political activity, including negotiations with the view of attaining their national rights, which the PLO and subsidiarily the Orient House pursue, or to go the way of Hamas. I think Prime Minister Rabin would be well advised not to hinder the peaceful political activity of the Orient House. Mr. Rabin, his party the Likud, and other Israeli parties should rid themselves of the arrogant mentality of the occupier if they really wish to have peace and security with the Palestinian people and, for that matter, with all Arab neighbours. The Israelis, and the Jews in general of all people in the world, should be the first people to feel and sympathise with the Palestinians, who are working hard only to free themselves of the shackles of occupation and to live in peace in their independent and sovereign territory in honour and dignity. The Israelis should therefore apply the time-honoured saying "Live and let live."

Angry Agassi crashes out; Sampras, Becker in final

FRANKFURT (AP) — Once he lost his cool, Andre Agassi lost the match.

Top-ranked Pete Sampras survived a tough challenge from No. 2 Agassi to prevail 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 Saturday and set up a clash against Boris Becker in the final of the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship.

Becker also fell behind, before 9,000 screaming fans in the festhalle helped him pull off a 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Sergi Bruguera.

Both Sampras and Becker have the chance to become the first to win two titles since the inception of the tour championship in 1990. Sampras won in 1991, and Becker clinched it one year later.

Becker is still undefeated and will collect \$1.24 million if he wins. Sampras lost to Becker in round-robin play and will claim \$1.16 million if he wins, less than Becker because of his one loss in the tournament.

"It's a rare occasion that you have to beat the No. 1 twice in a week to win a tournament," said Becker, who also beat Sampras last month in Stockholm.

The \$3 million tournament is limited to the top eight players in the world, who first compete in round-robin groups until four semifinalists are decided.

Sampras and Agassi are building up a rivalry as Agassi challenges the fellow American for the No. 1 ranking. Sampras is not yet ready to give up his throne and his ranking is not at stake even if he loses to Becker in the final.

"The game needs a good rivalry. But I didn't want to lose to him twice in three weeks," said Sampras, who lost to Agassi last month at the Paris Indoor.

Sampras raised his career record against Agassi to 7-5 and will be the first player to keep the No. 1 ranking for the whole year since Ivan Lendl in 1987.

"I showed a bit of heart out there and I didn't quit," he said.

Becker, a three-time Wimbledon champion who like Agassi is off a comeback trail, ran into a determined Bruguera, a Spanish clay-court specialist and French Open champion who has raised his indoor game to new



Andre Agassi waves farewell with his towel after losing the semifinal at the ATP Tour championships in Frankfurt (AFP photo)

heights. Although Becker at No. 5 is ranked two places below Bruguera, the German is considered one of the best indoor players.

But he needed all his experience to beat Bruguera, who lost his fourth indoor semifinal of the year. The Spaniard wasted three break points in the ninth game of the second set, and dropped his serve in the next to allow Becker to level the score.

"I never recovered from wasting those break points," Bruguera said.

Becker also shook off reported death threats. Police said they received two calls this week, threatening Becker and his son Noah Gabriel.

"Such people call many weeks in the year and I and other players are well protected," Becker said.

Sampras, two-time Wimbledon champion, overcame some erratic play by himself and an inspired performance by Agassi, who pressured the No. 1 into numerous errors

early in the match.

Agassi came into the clash with only one loss in his last 23 matches, after wrist surgery in December, Agassi dropped to No. 32, but he surged back, won the U.S. Open and came here ranked No. 2.

But Agassi's game collapsed in frustration after he lost the second set and had a point penalty after several outbursts that could have even earned him a default from umpire Rudi Berger of Germany.

"I let myself down mentally, I should have never let it get the best of me," Agassi said of his dispute with the umpire.

The clash between Agassi and the umpire came in the 12th game, when Berger overruled a linesman and gave the point to Sampras, leaving Agassi trailing 15-30.

At 15-40, facing three set points, Agassi was given a warning for verbal abuse. But he went on to hold his serve and send the set into the tiebreak.

Sabatani ousts Date, Pierce loses to Davenport

NEW YORK (AP) — Gabriela Sabatani's giant step toward winning the Virginia Slims Championships got a little help from Kimiko Date's leg.

Sabatani, seeking her first tournament title in 2½ years, grabbed a spot in the best-of-5 sets final when she outlasted the eighth-seeded Date 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The Argentine right-hander will take on seventh-seeded Lindsay Davenport for the title and \$250,000 in this season-ending event. Davenport advanced by defeating No. 5 Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-2 in Saturday's first semifinal.

Sabatani was one of the bright hopes on the women's tennis tour. She won this unique 16-player tournament in 1988 and took the U.S. Open two years later.

While she has not won a major tournament since then, she hasn't won a tournament of any kind since the Italian Open in May 1992. This is the 44th tournament she has played since, and will be appearing in her eighth final.

"I think the mental part has a lot to do with it," Sabatani said of her winless streak. "In 1990, I was mentally very focused and I played a great tournament, you know, at the Open when I won."

"Technically, today I think I'm a better player. But, of course, the mental part has a lot to do with it. If it is not there, I'm not there."

"But, talking about this tournament, everything is there mentally, physically, technically."

It may be prophetic that her first-round opponent was Martina Navratilova, playing in her final tournament before retiring as a singles player.

Sabatani sent Navratilova, the winningest player of all time, into retirement probably earlier than she expected or wanted. And Sabatani did it by playing her best tennis in years.

She needed to continue that to get past Date, who



Japan's Kimiko Date hits a backhand during her match at the Virginia Slims Championships in New York (AFP photo)

ousted third-seeded Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinal round. But Date strained the quad muscle in her right leg, an injury that bothered the Japanese right-hander against Sabatani.

Date won the final three games to take the first set, breaking Sabatani in the eighth and 10th games. But Sabatani, cheered on by the Madison Square Garden crowd of 16,838, roared through the second set.

Davenport was aggressive from the baseline, outlasting Pierce in their long-range bombardments.

In this battle of sluggers, the 6-foot-3, 18-year-old Davenport took control early. She broke Pierce in the fourth game, then held on to wrap up the opening set in 31 minutes.

Keeping Pierce on the run, and consequently negating her power, Davenport stepped up her own power game, ripping the ball deep and near the lines. After Pierce took a 2-1 lead, Davenport pulled even with a love game to begin a five-game run that carried her into the title match.

Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva successfully defended their doubles title, defeating Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the 1991 Virginia Slims Championship winners, 6-3, 6-7 (4-

7), 6-3. It ended a remarkable two days for Fernandez, a native of Puerto Rico who now lives in Aspen, Colo., and Zvereva of Belarus.

The world's top-ranked doubles team won their semifinal match by outlasting Patty Fendick and Meredith 4-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-2 in the semifinals and will meet Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for this year's title. Novotna and Sanchez Vicario won the crown in 1992.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was named the official world champion of women's tennis Saturday after closing out 1994 by winning the year-long Virginia Slims bonus pool and a record \$2,943,665.

Sanchez vicario won eight WTA tour tournament in 1994. She lost to Steffi Graf in the Australian Open title match.

"Anybody who wins two Grand Slams in a year and is runnerup in a third...certainly deserves the title of world champion," said Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation.

Sanchez vicario earned \$2,146,665 during the year. By finishing first in the Virginia Slims bonus pool in singles, she received \$750,000, and earned an additional \$10,000 for finishing third in the doubles pool.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Baggio advocates Trapattoni as Italian boss

ROME (AFP) — Roberto Baggio called for Bayern Munich coach Giovanni Trapattoni to replace Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi in the wake of Wednesday's 2-1 home loss to Croatia. The 1993 FIFA world footballer of the year told Italian press: "Sacchi did not succeed in doing what he promised and the supporters were very disappointed because they were expecting another spectacle. 'In my opinion, Trapattoni is the man for the job, even if a club coach can have difficulties running a national team.'"

Ivanisevic suspended for 2 months

FRANKFURT (AP) — Goran Ivanisevic has become the first player to be suspended from the ATP Tour when he received a two-month ban because of accumulated fines for code of conduct violations. The suspension expires the day before the start of the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the year, in the last two weeks of January. In a statement released Saturday at the ATP Tour World Championship, the tour said the ban begins Monday. Ivanisevic, No. 4 in the world, was banned for accumulating \$10,000 or more in fines in 1994, the second year in a row he has exceeded the \$10,000 limit. The Croat year in a row he has exceeded the limit when he was fined at the Paris Open in October. He received another fine Friday for swearing at a lineswoman during his semifinal loss to Pete Sampras, and ATP officials said this when he went over the limit.

Camacho outclassed by 'The Beast'

PRETORIA (AFP) — South African Vuyani "The Beast" Bungu outclassed Puerto Rican Felix Camacho to retain his IBF world junior featherweight title Saturday. Making his first defense of the title he took from American Kennedy McKinney here three months ago, Bungu won comfortably on points over 12 rounds.

Baseball talks halted for 10 days

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Negotiations between striking Major League baseball players and team owners were halted for 10 days Saturday so the union can scrutinize a new salary tax proposal from owners. The plan's presentation and a frank discussion of long-known differences were all took place in three days of talks that will resume November 28 or 29 after the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. The tax plan would force teams with player salaries over the league average, \$36 million for this past season, to pay a penalty that would provide extra money for teams at the low end of the revenue-salary scale.

IAAF criticise Norwegian sports authorities

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) criticised the Norwegian Sports Association (NIF) Saturday for clearing sprinter Aham Okeke of drugs offences and said he was still liable to a life ban if he infringed again. Okeke was banned from competition for three months after testing positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine at the Stockholm Grand Prix July 12. The legal committee of the Norwegian Sports Association (NIF) Friday cleared Okeke, saying it had no doubt that he had tested positive but ruled that he had not taken the drugs wilfully to enhance his performance.

China edges Russia in gymnastics

DORTMUND (AP) — A brilliant performance by Huang Huadong on the pommel horse Saturday helped China edge Russia to win the men's title at the Gymnastic World Team Championships. China and Russia turned the meeting of the world's top gymnastic powers into a two-country duel that wasn't decided until the evening's final routines. The Asian power finished at 283.333 points, shading silver medalist Russia at 282.158. Ukraine won bronze at 281.086, winning out against Belarus and Germany. Japan, third at the 1992 Olympics, was a distant sixth. Huadong's dazzling routine, for which he won gold at the recent Asian Games, led to wild cheers from his teammates after he stuck a perfect dismount. The judges awarded him the highest score for any routine of the evening at 9.837.

Trinidad and Tobago spoils U.S. anniversary

PORT OF SPAIN (AFP) — Leonson Lewis spoiled a U.S. football anniversary celebration Saturday, scoring in the 35th minute to give Trinidad and Tobago a 1-0 triumph over this year's World Cup hosts. The friendly match came exactly five years after a 1-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago sent the U.S. team into the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. The loss was the second disappointment for the U.S. squad since the World Cup. The U.S. team was blanked 2-0 by England in Wembley Stadium. U.S. players reached the final 16 at the World Cup.

Schumacher Jr. can't match Michael

MACAU (AFP) — Ralf Schumacher of Germany could not match his Formula One world champion brother Michael as he came in fourth in Sunday's Macau Formula, Three Grand Prix. Schumacher, driving a Dallara, was 15.58 sec behind the surprise winner, Sascha Maassen of Germany, who had begun 18th on the grid. Maassen, 25, also driving a Dallara, timed 1hr 6min 3.75 sec to beat race favourite Kevin Burt of England, 3.3sec off the pace, with Jan Magnussen of Denmark third, 6.45sec behind the leader.

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Turkey's Halil Mutlu celebrates his victory after setting a new world record at the World Weightlifting Championships (AFP photo)

Bulgarian grabs 3 golds in weightlifting

ISTANBUL (AP) — Bulgarian and American athletes amassed a total of five gold medals Saturday, the second day of the World Weightlifting Championships.

Nikolai Peshalov of Bulgaria won all three gold medals in the men's 59 kilogram category and also broke a

world record.

American Robin Byrd, competing in the women's 50 kilogrammes Class, became another half a kilo (1 pound).

Peshalov lifted 135 kilos in the snatch event for a combined total of 303 kilos, 5.5 kilos more than second place Hafiz Saleymanoglu of Turkey.

Earlier, Byrd finished with a combined total of 175 kilos in the women's snatch, and clean and jerk events, 10 kilos more than second-place finisher.

Before Byrd, Karyn Marshall was the last American to win a gold in 1989 in an international weightlifting competition in Manchester, England.

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Egorova wins Tokyo Marathon

TOKYO (R) — Valentina Egorova of Russia sprinted in the last six kilometres to win the Tokyo International Women's marathon in two hours, 30 minutes and 9 seconds Sunday.

"I am really glad to win the race," said the 30-year-old Egorova, gold medalist in the Barcelona Olympics.

The race got off to a slow start although Carole Rouillard of Canada and Silvana Pereira of Brazil pulled away from the leading pack soon after leaving the stadium.

The two ran neck-to-neck, extending their lead over other runners including Egorova.

The pack of eight runners, including Egorova, caught up with the top two runners shortly after clearing the 21.095-km halfway mark.

Egorova, who set the world's fifth fastest time of 2:23.33 by finishing second in last April's Boston Marathon, pulled away at 36.6-km mark.



Barcelona Olympic champion Valentina Egorova of Russia raises her arms as she crosses a finish line in the Tokyo women's marathon for the second year running (AFP photo)

Celtics defeat Bullets in final second

LANDOVER, Maryland (R) — Dee Brown sank a pair of free throws with 1.6 seconds left to spoil the Bullets' debut of Chris Webber and Juwan Howard and give the Boston Celtics a 103-102 victory over Washington Saturday.

Calbert Cheaney hit a jumper from the key with 1.6 seconds left to give Washington a 102-101 lead, but Rex Chapman was whistled for a blocking foul against Brown at the same time, giving him the chance to tie and win the game at the line.

Brown led Boston with 22 points while Dominique Wilkins and Dino Radja each had 21. Chapman scored 19 for Washington.

In Denver, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points and reserve Sam Cassell added 22 as the Houston Rockets remained unbeaten with a 109-101 win over the undermanned Denver Nuggets.

The defending champion Rockets, who tied an NBA record by winning their first 15 games last season, improved to 9-0.

Reggie Williams scored 26 points and Bryant Stith netted 25 for the Nuggets, who lost their second straight game after winning four in a row.

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell scored 39 points and Tim Hardaway added 26 as the streaking Warriors held on for a 119-115 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Ricky Pierce chipped in with 21 for the Warriors, who are off to their best start ever after eight games at 7-1.

Tom Gugliotta, who came to the Warriors in a trade for Chris Webber, scored only three points in 21 minutes on 1-of-5 shooting from the field.

Karl Malone scored 32 points, Jeff Hornacek had 24 and John Stockton contributed 23 for Utah, which fell to 4-5.

In New York, Charles Smith scored 24 points and teamed with Herb Williams to lead a first-quarter explosion as the Knicks overcame the absence of all-star centre Patrick Ewing to record a 92-79 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

In Charlotte, the Indiana Pacers took charge just before and then after the half of their way to a 102-89 visitor's victory over the Hornets.

"We played a complete game," said Pacers coach



Atlanta Hawks Stacey Augmon (centre) tries to slip through New York Knicks Charles Oakley (left) and John Starks (right) to get to the basket (AFP photo)

Larry Brown. "The most significant thing tonight was to see us play two great teams back-to-back and win."

Alonzo Mourning led the Hornets with 19 points and 11 rebounds, but committed eight turnovers.

In Milwaukee, Gary Payton scored 25 points and Sam Perkins keyed a 20-6 Sonics run that bridged the first and second quarters as Seattle salvaged the finale of a four-game road trip with a 120-96 rout of the Bucks.

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♥ A K Q 4
♦ K 10
♣ K 8 3
WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ A 8 7
♣ J 10 9 4 2
EAST
♠ A 8 4
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ Q 8 5 4
♣ A 7
SOUTH
♠ Q 10 8 7 6
♥ 5
♦ J 6 3 2
♣ Q 6 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

It's easy to play quickly, but not necessarily advisable. A well-known player fell victim to hasty fingers on this deal from a tournament aboard the m.s. Royal Viking Sun's transatlantic cruise.

The auction was routine. With a 19 high-card-point hand and four-card trump support, North had no problem in raising South's one-

sponse response to game. West led the top of the club sequence and, after a moment's reflection, East rose with the ace and shifted to a diamond, shifted to a diamond and West used the diamond entry to switch back to clubs for East to ruff down one.

Declarer apologized sheepishly to partner, admitting to be guilty of a simple error of omission. There was no rush to draw trumps. The first order of business was to protect against a club ruff.

That could be accomplished easily enough. After winning the second club declarer should have cashed two top hearts, discarding a club from hand on the second. That would have clipped the defenders' wings.

No matter which defender later wins the first trump, declarer will be able to ruff the next club high in hand. All that would then remain would be to guess the diamond position (not difficult once East turns up with the other two missing aces) to bring home the game.

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United go top as Newcastle crash; PSG advance

LONDON (AFP) — Champions Manchester United went top of the English Premiership for the first time this season after a comfortable 3-0 victory over Crystal Palace to replace Newcastle who slipped into third spot after a 3-2 defeat at Wimbledon.

First-half goals from Denis Irwin and Eric Cantona and a second half strike by Andrei Kanchelskis made it eight home league wins in a row for Alex Ferguson's side and took their Old Trafford goals aggregate to 20 with none conceded.

Ferguson expressed delight at the way his side, containing youngsters Gary Neville and Simon Davies, had performed against Alan Smith's team, saying:

"We did really well and some of our football was terrific. They gave us a few worrying moments because they're an aggressive side and had a go but once we got the second, that killed them off."

Newcastle were toppled from pole position as they once again fell at Wimbledon in an amazing game at Selhurst Park.

Kevin Keegan's team have never won away against Wimbledon and the luck was against them again even though goals from Peter Beardsley and Paul Kitson hauled them back to 2-2 after going behind it strikes from Andy Clarke and Efan Ekoku.

Even against 10 men they were unable to snatch a point as Wimbledon sealed their third win in their last four League matches with a Mick Harford header to climb clear of trouble despite having skipper Vinnie Jones sent off for a second bookable offence.

In-form Blackburn moved into second spot with a 3-1 victory at Ipswich with goals from Alan Shearer, Chris Sutton and Tim Sherwood.

Ipswich player-coach John Wark criticised his players after the defeat, saying: "Blackburn could have had five and were taking the mickey at the end. That's what disappoints us most of all."

Gerry Francis could not have got off to a more dramatic start in his new job as manager of Tottenham Hotspur as he watched his side cancel out a 3-0 deficit only to see Aston Villa grab all the points with a Dean Saunders goal in the dying seconds.

The former QPR manager was clearly disappointed by



Tottenham Hotspur's star German striker Jürgen Klinsmann (right) beats Aston Villa's defender Paul McGrath to the ball in mid-air during their Premiership match Nov. 19 (AFP photo)

the result, saying: "Football can be so cruel. I thought we could have gone on to win the game but then Dean Saunders got a wonder-goal leaving us with nothing."

Francis, appointed as Spurs boss Tuesday, could hardly believe it as Villa looked set for their first win in ten games as they centred into a 3-0 lead in just 27 minutes with goals from Dalian Atkinson and two from youngster Graham Fenton.

Spurs rallied with a goal by Teddy Sheringham before the interval and completed a remarkable comeback when German star Jürgen Klinsmann slotted a penalty shortly after the break before snatching home his second 20 minutes later.

Francis' old club QPR provided new manager Ray Wilkins with the perfect start to his tenure as they defeated Leeds 3-2 with England striker Les Ferdinand, who only passed a late fitness test, scoring twice.

Clearly delighted with a debut victory, Wilkins confirmed that Ferdinand was happy to remain at Loftus Road despite recent speculation linking him with possible moves to Arsenal.

"I spoke to him for five minutes. He's perfectly happy to be here," said Wilkins.

Bruce Grobbelaar survived a potentially traumatic ordeal to keep a clean sheet — thanks largely to a Paul Dickov penalty miss for Arsenal

— as Southampton ended a run of six games without a win courtesy of Jim Magilton's first goal for the club.

Grobbelaar, cheered on and off the pitch by Saints fans in his first game back in England since bribery and match-fixing allegations were made against him, played a full part in the success.

Nottingham Forest, who were top of the table at one stage this season, were beaten 1-0 at home by Chelsea and have now taken just one point from their last four games, failing to score in any of them.

But goalkeeper Mark Crossley refuted suggestions that the Forest bubble had burst, saying: "We're not having much luck at the moment, but we will bounce back because we've got so many talented players in the side."

Romanian international Dan Petrescu's 28th minute winner took the pressure off Sheffield Wednesday, whose 1-0 victory was their first League win in five games.

A goal from American winger Cobi Jones gave Coventry a 1-0 win over Norwich.

PSG move closer to leaders Nantes

In Paris, Paris Saint Germain gained ground on French league leaders Nantes as they beat St. Etienne 3-1.

It was PSG's fourth away win in a row, and completed without influential Brazilians Ricardo and Valdo, plus French international striker David Ginola.

Nantes, without injured Reynald Pedros, could only draw 0-0 at home to Bastia, cutting their lead from six to four points.

However, St. Etienne virtually controlled the whole of the first half, but PSG still managed to lead 2-1 at the interval.

St. Etienne opened the scoring through defender Patrick Moreau, who beat keeper Bernard Lama from close in after a corner on 35 minutes. However Etienne coach Elie Baup then watched his side concede two goals from dead ball kicks in the space of five minutes.

First Paul Le Guen scored straight from a corner in the 39th minute, and Alain Roche beat Gregory Coupet from a Daniel Bravo corner just before the interval.

Before the match, about 100 Paris Saint Germain supporters attacked 80 of their opposite numbers with iron bars in St. Etienne town centre, said police.

Barnard Vale, in charge of match security, reported at least one serious injury, and 13 arrests.

Nantes' trio Patrice Loko, Jean-Michel Ferri and Nicolas Ouedec made continual sorties on Bastia's goal, but could not breach their rock-like defence.

Nantes could even have lost the game as Bastia began to expose gaps at the back. Stephane Ziani even hit the left-hand post of Dominique Casagrande in the 24th minute.

Casagrande again was in danger three minutes before

time, but he took the ball from the feet of Bastia striker Anton Drobnjak. Bastia's Cyrille Rool was sent off in the last minute.

Cannes retained third spot with a creditable 0-0 draw at Monaco. Lyon, who play at Strasbourg on Sunday, remain in fourth place. Bordeaux beat Lille 1-0 through an early Laurent Fourrier goal, before both teams were reduced to 10 men.

Lille's Fabien Leclerc was sent off in the 49th minute, and Bordeaux's Didier Segac followed his footsteps in the 69th minute.

Dortmund lose 100 per cent home record

In Bonn, Borussia Dortmund lost their 100 per cent home record as they were held 1-1 against Freiburg Saturday to cut their German championship lead to just two points from Werder Bremen.

Bremen won 3-1 at Uerdingen, including two goals from man of the match Mario Basler.

Dortmund keeper Stefan Klos had not conceded a goal at home all season till Ralf Kohn's 76th minute strike, cancelling out Andreas Moeller's opener on the hour. Klos had gone 546 minutes without letting in a goal.

Bayern Munich were leading 2-1 at Karlsruhe with two minutes to go. But then Eberhard Carl equalised for Karlsruhe, and Munich's Samuel Kuffour of Ghana and Markus Schupp were both sent off for professional fouls. Worse still, the misdeeds were in front of Franz Beckenbauer, watching his first match as Bayern club president.

Munich are in eighth place, six points from Dortmund.

Borussia Moenchengladbach held on to third spot, despite falling at Eintracht Frankfurt through goals from Ghanaian Anthony Yeboah and Nigeria's Augustine Okocha. Heiko Herrlich hit a consolation for Borussia in the last minute.

Switzerland's Ciriaco Sforza's last minute goal for Kaiserslautern against MSV Duisburg shot them four places up the table to fourth spot.

Jörg Albertz's late equaliser for Hamburg in a 1-1 draw at Cologne Friday could not prevent them falling from fourth to fifth spot. And the same night, midtable Schalke 04 had the performance of the week to thrash Dynamo Dresden 4-0.

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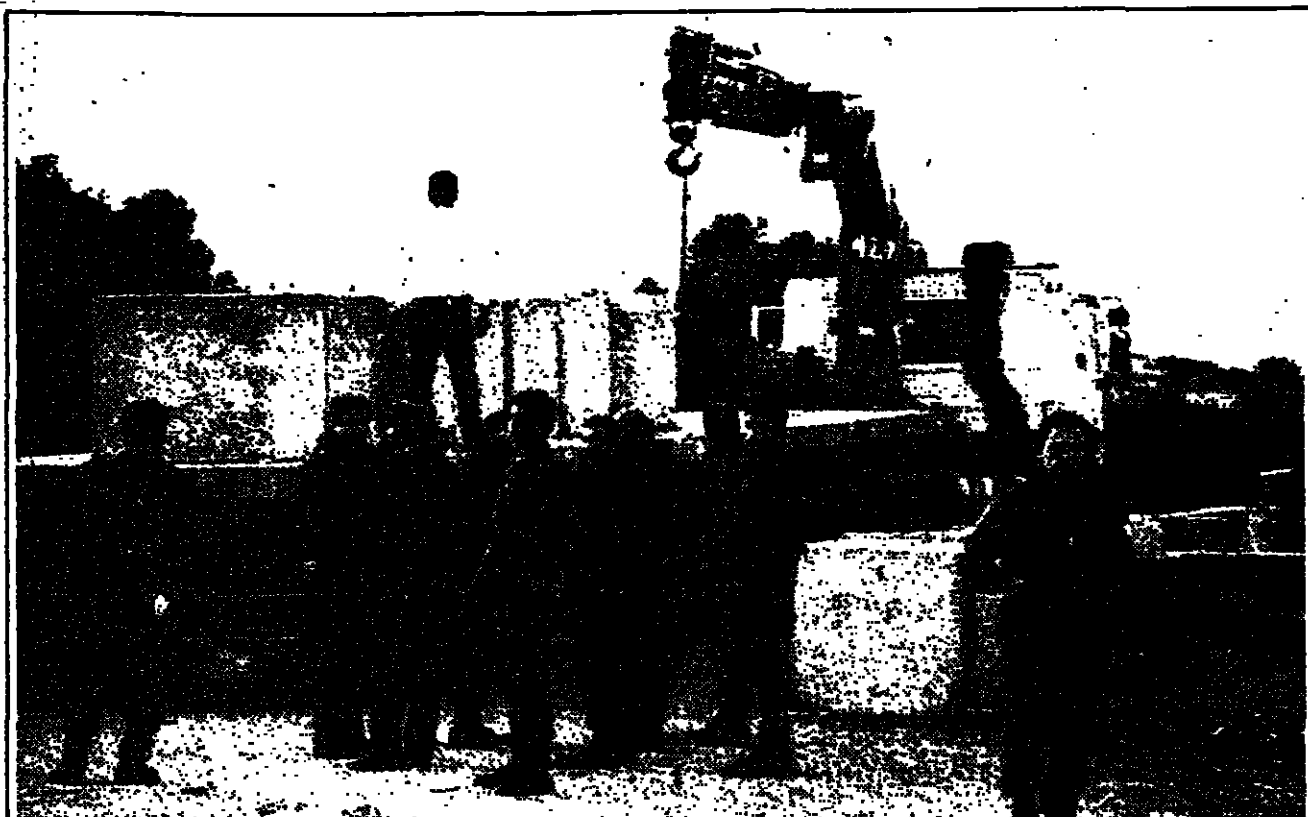
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TIGHTENING POSTS: Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police reorganise and strengthen the Israeli position in the Nezarim junction in central Gaza Strip just before dawn Saturday. A few hours later, a Palestinian car stopped near from where the picture is taken and opened fire on the

position. One Israeli officer was wounded and later died in hospital. He was from the same unit that last week lost three officers in a suicide attack on the position. The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas claimed responsibility for this last attack (AFP photo) (see page one)

Lebanese Christians denounce Geagea trial

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Christian commentators denounced the murder trial of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea on Sunday as a political manoeuvre against their weakened community.

A newspaper editor said the trial, which opened on Saturday and is seen as one of the most important in Lebanon's history, must not be allowed to become a show trial like the 1950s Stalinist trials in Eastern Europe.

Another columnist accused the Syrian-backed government of continuing by other means the 1975-90 civil war from which the once-dominant Christian minority emerged weakened and subordinated.

Mr. Geagea, 42-year-old ex-leader of the disbanded Lebanese Force (LF) militia, is accused of a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers and the 1990 murders of a Christian rival

and his family. "The overwhelming majority of citizens firmly believe that Geagea — the only Christian chief still in the country who has not toed the government line — is the victim of an implacable political manoeuvre," wrote Issa Goraieb, editor of the French-language newspaper *L'Orient-Le Jour*.

"We hasten to emphasise what for us — because we will never allow Beirut to become the Prague of the 1950s — everyone accused is innocent until proved guilty," Mr. Goraieb added.

Supporters outside the court asked why Mr. Geagea was on trial while leaders of other sectarian militias hold high political office.

"Is it fair that Geagea stands trial while (NABIH) Berri is speaker of parliament? a Geagea supporter asked. Mr. Berri headed the Shiite Muslim Amal militia

during the war.

Rafik Khoury, commentator for the Arabic-language daily *Al-Anwar*, said the government had failed to achieve national reconciliation or a Muslim-Christian political balance since the war.

"The Lebanese situation seems to be a continuation of the war by other means... while people wait for the final word from the court, they will keep asking whether the authorities have resolved a problem or created a problem," Mr. Khoury said.

Mr. Geagea is the only one of the Muslim, Christian and Druze chieftains of the civil war to go on trial.

Before his arrest in March he saw himself as the toughest opponent of the government and the continued presence of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, whom many Lebanese see as depriving their country of its independence.

Mr. Goraieb pointed out that authorities outlawed the Lebanese Forces by decree in March without waiting for a court ruling on the two cases. Mr. Geagea had turned the LF into a political party in 1991.

Mr. Goraieb asked why authorities were trying Mr. Geagea while forgetting a string of unresolved political assassinations not covered by a 1991 amnesty for civil war crimes.

They included the 1978 murder of Christian chieftain Tony Frangieh and the killing of President Bashir Gemayel in 1982. President Rene Moawad in 1990 and Prime Minister Rashid Karamah in 1987.

Some ministers in the government "trembled" when the Frangieh case was recently opened before it was suddenly closed again," Mr. Goraieb wrote.

Shipment of Jordanian tomatoes enters Israel

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A five-tonne consignment of Jordanian tomatoes entered Israel on Sunday after successfully passing quality control and specification tests on both sides, clearing the way for larger consignments ordered by Israeli importers, senior officials said.

The shipment, which was sent across the River Jordan Bridge in the north, was the first Jordanian export to Israel and follows the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries last month.

Several hundred tonnes of tomatoes, which are in short supply in Israel, are expected to follow in the next weeks, said Salem Al Lawzi, director-general of the state-run Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The first shipment was sorted, graded and packed at the government-owned Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) in the Jordan Valley, said Abdul Rahman Abu Nowar, marketing and industrial manager of the company.

In interviews with the Jordan Times, the officials denied an Israeli report that an earlier consignment of tomatoes sent across the bridge was returned by the Israelis because the produce did not meet with the specifications sought by the importers.

The consignment, which was prepared by the private sector, was turned back by Jordanian quality and specifications control authorities because they found that the shipment not acceptable under the standards set by the Israelis, the officials said.

AMPCO, which maintains a well-equipped packing and

grading plant in the Jordan Valley and also processes tomatoes into paste, appeared to have played a key role in ensuring that the standards sought by the Israelis in terms of sizing, grading and packing.

"We stand ready to extend our facilities to any Jordanian exporter to Israel or any other place to do the sorting, grading and packing so as to ensure that the shipments conform with the standards and specifications sought by importers," said Mr. Abu Nowar.

With the first "test shipment" clearing both sides of the bridge, "I expect several consignments to follow on Monday and throughout the week," Mr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times.

AM O, an umbrella body for all agricultural exports and imports of Jordan, has issued permissions to exporters for around 800 tonnes of tomato shipments to Israel.

Officials expect to maintain an average daily shipment of around 150 tonnes per day as the process gets into rhythm.

The shipment came after the private sector exporter, the Jordan Valley Company, and an Israeli importer reached a compromise price, but the actual figure was not immediately known.

While Jordanian exporters were seeking an over \$2 per kilogram price, the Israelis were offering only \$1.5, industry sources said last week.

Israel turned to Jordan for its needs of tomatoes this month after imposing a ban on produce from its traditional sources in the Gaza Strip citing a cholera outbreak there. The ban led to serious shortages of tomatoes in

Israel since the Israeli farmers had also cut production following a drop in price several months ago.

The price in the Israeli market for a kilogramme of tomato has hit \$3 (JD 2.1) in the wake of the shortage.

Abdul Rahman Abu Sneneh, marketing manager of AMO, meanwhile sought to address complaints over the rising price of tomatoes in the Jordanian market.

He said a shortage of the produce in the market was the result of delayed production and harvesting in some areas and that he expected the problem to linger for a few weeks more pending the arrival of tomatoes from farms in the southern Jordan Valley.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Abu Sneneh stressed that the tomato exports to Israel would not be at the expense of the local market. He said Jordan produced an average of 750 to 1,000 tonnes of tomatoes every day in winter and regularly exported around 350 tonnes.

The shipments to Israel will be part of the 350 tonnes per day set aside for daily exports and as such the market would not feel the difference, he argued.

But the argument does not solve the problem in the market since local prices have gone up to 700 to 800 fils a kilogramme compared with the 100 fils to 150 fils a kilogramme price during summer.

Tomato production in the summer peak season exceeds 4,000 tonnes per day, dropping to around 1,000 tonnes in winter season. This explains the low prices in summer and the high prices in winter.

COLUMN

Clinton jam session becomes bootleg recording

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A recording of President Bill Clinton's saxophone session at a Prague club is being marketed by a mail order firm as a bootleg compact disc, with no objections from the White House. The unauthorised recording, including *Summertime* and *My Funny Valentine*, is being sold by Stash, a New York jazz recording company. "The first song he plays is kind of rough because he was using a new saxophone, but the second song he plays respectably," said Stash owner Bernard Brightman. The 18-minute CD sells for \$15. White House spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said the CD is "basically a bootleg version," and that Mr. Clinton did not know he was being recorded. But she added that White House lawyers were making no effort to block distribution of the recording. "I have heard that it's great music," the Clinton spokeswoman said. Mr. Brightman said he got a thank-you note from White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers after sending her a copy of the recording. He said the New York Daily News gave a thumbs-down to the performance: "They said it was sure to go aluminum."

Clintons leave their mark on Asia

JAKARTA (AFP) — At least three Indonesian families have named their newborn babies after U.S. President Bill Clinton, who visited the country last week for an Asia-Pacific economic summit, the Antara News Agency said. Two families in Jakarta have named their baby boys Clinton Budiman and Clinton Martono, Antara said, while a family in Medan, North Sumatra are calling their son Clinton Pasaribu. First lady Hillary Clinton was similarly honoured during the couple's overnight stay in the Philippines before they went to Jakarta for the Nov. 15 summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. She cradled newborn Hillary Berceno, at a government hospital she visited in Manila.

Jilted lover tries to immolate girl

RABAT (AFP) — A young man poured petrol over a girl and set her alight after she spurned his proposal of marriage, press reports said. They said that Taoufik Abdul Majid took his revenge after learning that Malika Sarfari, 20, intended to break off their relationship. He waited outside her school with a can of petrol and committed the act when she confirmed her decision. They said Mr. Sarfari was in a coma with serious burns in a specialist Rabat hospital. One paper, *Al Alam*, said the girl's parents had complained to the local police four times that Abdul Majid was pestering their daughter but no action was taken.

Ukrainian banknotes used as toilet paper

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ukrainians recycle 35 tonnes of used banknotes (karbovanets) into toilet paper each month because of cellulose shortages, the Russian daily *Sovetskaya* said. Ukrainian banks send old banknotes to the Dnepropetrovsk paper mill where they account for a quarter of its toilet paper production, according to factory manager Vladimir Vereshak. The toilet paper comes in three colours — pink, green and blue — which correspond to the original banknote hues. Vereshak vouched for its "perfect" quality.

Dog prices crash as Beijing mulls exorbitant fees

BEIJING (R) — Prices for rare Pekinese and other covered lapdogs are crashing in the Chinese capital as city fathers debate exorbitant licence fees, a Beijing newspaper reported Sunday. "It doesn't matter how good the dog or how low the price, they aren't moving," a dog peddler at one of Beijing's once thriving black markets told the official *Wen Hui* daily. "We can't even give them away," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rains expected in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A spokesman for the Meteorology Department said Sunday a deep depression now centred over the northern Egyptian coasts accompanied by a cold air mass will start affecting the country as of Monday morning, causing fresh winds and heavy rainfall. The sources warned of poor visibility, particularly in the southern and eastern regions, and possible floods in valleys and low-lying areas.

Sampras wins ATP tour final

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Pete Sampras can buy the turkey for next week's American Thanksgiving holiday celebrations after winning a second career title on Sunday at the \$3 million ATP tour final and collecting the champion's cheque of \$1.2 million. The 23-year-old world number one was the first man to hold the top spot for an entire calendar year since Ivan Lendl in 1987 — dashed the hopes of Boris Becker in front of 9,000 German fans with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 win. Sunday's cheque took his earnings for the year to \$3.6 million. It was a rewarding finish to the year for Sampras who was forced out of competition for several weeks late in the summer because of ankle tendon problems (see inside).

Oman appoints two women to council

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's ruler Sultan Qaboos on Sunday appointed two women to the country's consultative council. He published a decree appointing radio news presenter Tayyabe Bint Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maawali and Shukur Bint Mohammad Ben Salem Al Ghamari to the consultative Shura Council. The two women were nominated in elections last August from Muscat's provinces. Women's participation in the vote and their right to be nominated is limited to the capital's six provinces.

Quake hits northeast Syria — monitors

ANKARA (R) — A strong earthquake hit northeast Syria on Sunday and was felt in four provinces of Turkey, Turkish monitors reported. There was no immediate word in Damascus of casualties or damage. Officials at Bosphorus University told Turkey's Anatolian news agency the earthquake was centred 500 kilometres south of their monitoring station in the Turkish city of Erzinan. The Turkish monitors measured it at 5.0 on the Richter scale — powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area.

Mubarak begins Europe visit

LONDON (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak reviewed the Middle East peace process with an envoy of King Hassan of Morocco, then arrived in London for a week-long trip to Europe. Mr. Mubarak, who was given a red-carpet greeting at London's Heathrow airport by British Foreign Office officials, will also visit Italy, Romania, and Poland. The aim is to increase trade ties with the European nations and seek investments to support Egypt's economic reform programme, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

European Community gives \$12m to PNA

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The European Community has signed a \$12-million agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for the rehabilitation of freed prisoners, the social welfare minister said Sunday. Intissar Al Wazir said the funds were expected to be released in three weeks. "The agreement signed is for training, rehabilitation and small projects," she told AFP. She said about 6,000 Palestinian prisoners have been released from Israeli jails, in accordance with the autonomy deal. Another 7,000 are also to be released under the deal.

Israeli soldier wounded in attack

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas ambushed an Israeli patrol near the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle in South Lebanon Sunday. Security sources said one Israeli soldier was wounded. The Lebanese sources, speaking on condition of anonymity in an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, said the attack was mounted by Hizbollah guerrillas while the patrol reconnoitered near the hilltop fort at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT). The attackers blasted the mechanised patrol at close range with Sagger missiles, shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns, the sources said.

Syrian ship sinks in stormy sea

ATHENS (AP) — A small Syrian ship carrying a cargo of salt sank in a storm off Greece's Cape Maleas on Sunday and nearby ships were picking up its 10 crewmen who were in the sea, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. The motorship Magid H. sank at 11.30 a.m. (0930 GMT) while six miles northeast of the cape on the Peloponnese peninsula, a spokesman said. He said that nearby ships had picked up one man and were trying to reach another who was in the water with a life jacket. Another eight crew men were reported to be in a life raft, he said.

Egyptian politician comes out of hiding

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian politician thrown out of parliament for corruption earlier this year has reappeared after eight months in hiding, security sources said on Sunday. Tawfik Zaghloul, who was independent member of parliament for the Nile Delta constituency of Al Santa, handed himself in to police headquarters in the nearby town of Tanta on Saturday and is now in jail, they said. Mr. Zaghloul disappeared on March 23, the day a court sentenced him to three years in jail for wasting public money and accepting a 5,000 pound (\$1,500) bribe. The court in Tanta found him guilty of accepting the bribe in return for awarding a contract with a public sector company which he chaired. Parliament expelled him on March 30. The sources did not say where Mr. Zaghloul had been hiding.

Egyptian farmer killed to avenge shooting

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen shot dead a farmer in southern Egypt in an apparent revenge attack for the killing of a mosque caretaker by suspected militants, security sources said on Sunday. They said Ali Eid, father of wanted militant Ahmad Ali Eid, was shot dead by gunmen thought to be relatives of Farrag Taha, who was killed on Saturday at the Zawiyah mosque in Tanta, 250 kilometres south of Cairo. The mosque, once run by the militant Al Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), was recently taken over by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Three suspected Gama'a gunmen stormed it on Saturday, killing Taha and wounding another man before fleeing. The sources said the men who killed Ali Eid struck on Saturday morning about three hours after the mosque attack, all escaped. It was not clear whether his son had taken part in the mosque raid.

Yemen embassies to have 7 diplomats

ADEN (AP) — Yemen is limiting the number of diplomats serving at each of its missions abroad to a maximum of seven under austerity measures introduced after the civil war, a foreign ministry official said. Most of the embassies will now have between three and six diplomats. The bigger ones will be allowed seven diplomats, said the official. He said up to 15 diplomats were serving in some of the more important embassies. Although financial reasons were cited as the main cause for the reduction in the number of diplomats, the move also was expected to help Sanaa purge its missions of southern Yemenis.

Jordanian tourists to enter Israel today

AMMAN (R) — A first group of Jordanian tourists will visit Israel on Monday following complaints from travel agents that Israeli authorities were slow in issuing visas.

"Barring any last-minute surprises, we expect a group of 28 Jordanians to head to Israel tomorrow via the Jordan River crossing," a government official told Reuters.

The two countries opened their borders last Sunday after signing a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

Hundreds of Israelis have flooded into Jordan, visiting the Nabatean rock-carved city of Petra and other ancient sites such as Mount Nebo, where Moses died.

"Not a single Jordanian, whether a businessman, a journalist or a tourist has passed through us to Israeli on a Jordanian passport," the official said.

Jordanian travel agents have complained that it is taking Israel's interior ministry almost two weeks to issue visas for Jordanian tourists. They say Jordan is granting them in a week.

Some believe security considerations are behind the delay. Many of Jordan's 4.2 million people are of Palestinian origin and still have family living in Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Travelers have to rely on Travel agencies to obtain visas until embassies open by Dec. 10.

The Treaty, Israel's second with an Arab state, ended a 46-year state of war.

House urges Palestinian dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

The House reviewed report by its Finance Committee on the Jordan Investment Corporation and a report by the Legal Committee on an amendment to a law related to the Royal Jordanian (RJ) national airline.

Before the end of the session, the House issued a statement appealing to the Palestinian people to abstain from in-fighting and prevent bloodshed and resort to dialogue to resolve disputes.

Russia urges Iraq to meet all U.N. terms

Chernomyrdin signs major economic deal with Saudis

Combined agency dispatches

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin urged Iraq to meet all U.N. conditions for the lifting of sanctions, during a visit to Saudi Arabia Sunday where the two countries also signed a landmark economic accord.

Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters he had discussed with Saudi King Fahd the lifting of the embargo, which was imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Russian premier, speaking before setting off for Kuwait on the second leg of a Gulf tour, said Moscow would "work for Iraq to conform fully to all the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Only then should the crippling embargo be lifted, Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev pledged to work for the easing of sanctions in return for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait after a visit to Baghdad last month.

Iraq formally recognised the emirate and its borders on Nov. 10 — one of the key conditions for an end to sanctions — but four days later the Security Council renewed the embargo for another six months.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said: "We hope this issue will be resolved in the near future and that the embargo will be lifted, but on the condition that Iraq applies all U.N. resolutions."

Saudi Arabia was the first leg of Chernomyrdin's six-day tour of the Gulf, the first by a Russian head of government to the region.

During his visit, Riyadh and Moscow signed an agreement for economic and cultural cooperation which Moscow hailed as an historic step in ties between the two countries.

The deal, signed by Mr. Chernomyrdin's deputy for foreign economic relations Oleg Davydov and Saudi Finance Minister, Mohammad Abal Khail, will set up a committee of officials and businessmen from both countries to develop prog-